

April 2018



Mums In May 2018

Mums in May has enabled us to reach out into our communities and share the vision, the excitement and the support which Mothers' Union brings to those who are most vulnerable in our society, both locally and globally.

This year we are invited members to take on board the theme of *walking* – can be from the back door to the front door to walking from Malin Head to Mizen Head!

For those who prefer to walk with their hands, there is a tea cosy competition and a story writing competition, together with the ever-faithful Fireside Quiz and a cup of tea!

Check out ideas on the home page at www.mothersunion.ie and enjoy the journey!



CSW62

A delegation of Mothers' Union representatives, attended the UN's Commission on the Status of Women in New York to lobby at a very practical level on behalf of economic empowerment for rural women and girls.

Rural areas remain at an economic disadvantage, compared to their urban counterparts, with 80% of undernourished people in the world living in rural communities.

Whilst rural women produce more than 55 per cent of all food grown in developing countries they are less likely to own the land they farm.

The lack of economic empowerment; inequalities in accessing education and skills training; decent paid work; as well as discrimination within the workplace and the global gender gap in income and employment, which currently stands at 59% mean that **women bear the brunt of poverty**.

Read about the negotiations here:

<http://www.themothersunion.org/mu-uncsw>

16 Days All-Ireland Prayer Vigil 2018



Throughout Ireland we continue our efforts to combat domestic and gender-based violence. The suggested date for this year's Vigil is Saturday, November 24th with the 16 Days stretching from 25th November to 10th December. Details of Diocesan Events will be available by mid-summer 2018.

Reflect, Pray, Plan, Act. Together we can make a difference



#PLEDGE2PRAY

"In praying 'Thy Kingdom Come' we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities." Archbishop Justin Welby



"Dear Lord ..."

is a brand-new Mothers' Union prayer book. A collection of 150 prayers and reflections contributed by member across the world.

A wonderful range to:

To inspire your personal quiet time

To refresh branch devotions

An ideal gift for family and friends

A useful resource for clergy

At £3/€3.50 a copy, it can be ordered through your MUE Rep or directly for the MUE website.

www.mueshop.org



PENSION EQUALITY for WOMEN

Thank you for signing the petition in our call for Pension Equality for Women in the Republic of Ireland. These have now been forwarded to Ms. Regina Doherty, Minister for Social Protection.

Progress has been made, and the government are currently making moves to address this issue. We await further developments and are monitoring the situation.

See this update below:

http://www.nwci.ie/index.php/learn/article/nwci_campaigns_for_pension_equality_of_women



Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray for more people to come to know Jesus. It started in 2016 as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer.

www.thykingdomcome.global

For prayer ideas, take a look at these resources:

- Taking Part for Churches
- Taking Part for Individuals
- Taking Part for Families



Children's Alliance Report Card

The Irish Government received an overall 'C-' grade in Report Card 2018, reflecting a satisfactory attempt, with children still left wanting.

The highest individual grade is a 'B' for 'Child Protection', with the lowest grade being awarded for 'Child and Family Homelessness', receiving an 'E', unchanged since last year. A barely acceptable performance, with little or no positive impact on children was noted in regard to 'Traveller and Roma Children'; 'Refugee and Asylum-Seeking Children'; Important groundwork has been carried out in a number of areas, but it is clear that much more has be done.

www.childrensrights.ie/content/report-card-2018

FAST



Learn it. Share it. You could save a life.

Get on top of a STROKE

One in five people in Ireland will have a stroke at some time in their life. A stroke can strike at any age. Even young people and children can be affected.

The more we know, the better.

The simple test called Act F.A.S.T. helps us to recognise a stroke. Great advice and support is available from agencies such as

www.stroke.org.uk/what-we-do/northern-ireland
www.irishheart.ie



Domestic Violence Consultation

As part of a tougher stance against domestic violence the UK have launched a consultation on their new Domestic Violence and Abuse Bill.

This is a landmark bill, so it is important that members in Northern Ireland take part in this consultation as it influences what happens in Northern Ireland.

It is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make sure survivors and their children get the support they need, and some aspects of the bill warrant careful consideration.

The consultation closes on 31st May, 2018

<https://consult.justice.gov.uk/homeoffice-moj/domestic-abuse-consultation/>



This year's National Volunteering Week will take place from 21st to 27th. Plans are underway to make this the best National Volunteering Week yet!

There are many opportunities to volunteer in our communities, whether through simple meet and greet, visiting elderly, or taking on a more substantial role.

Think, pray and then act – one small step can make a big difference is someone else's life. **Give a little, change a lot.**



World Meeting of Families 2018

As part of the Church of Ireland contribution to the World Meeting of Families, we are delighted to host a Mothers Union Prayer Space in Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin.

Our event will highlight domestic abuse in Ireland and will welcome families to the safe haven of that prayerful space.

Its central feature will be the *Souls of Our Shoes Exhibition* – a thoughtful meaningful display of shoes accompanied by comments from women affected by domestic violence.

We encourage you to drop into the Cathedral from 22nd -26th August.

Useful Contact Details:

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Mary Magdalene

An evening out with a difference

Once again Mothers' Union has partnered with Damaris Media to offer branches a free resource for the film *Mary Magdalene*.

A Companion Booklet which explores the issues addressed within the film from a biblical perspective is now available to download at

<http://www.mothersunion.org/sites/default/files/files/Mary%20Magdalene%20Film%20Companion%20Booklet.pdf>



Be an agent for change –
WORLD Fairtrade Day 2018:
Saturday, 12th May

Fair Trade is a tangible solution to poverty eradication, a good tool for sustainable development, and most of all FairTrade promotes social justice.

Promote and buy FAIRTRADE products where possible.

<https://globaldimension.org.uk/event/world-fair-trade-day/2018-05-12/>

www.fairtrade.co.uk
www.fairtrade.ie



WHAT IS THINK AHEAD?

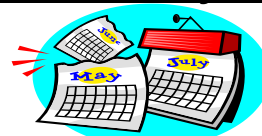
Facing life ahead issues that often get shoved under the carpet until it's too late – the sooner we think about them and made decisions around them the sooner we can get on with making the most of the rest of our lives.

The purpose of THINK AHEAD is to help us talk about and record our preferences in the event of emergency, serious illness or death.

The THINK AHEAD form can be downloaded at

www.thinkahead.ie

Useful Dates for your Diary



Sun Awareness Week May 9th
Mental Health Awareness Week May 14th
International Day of Families May 15th
Dementia Awareness Week May 21st
World Hunger Day May 28th
World No-Tobacco Day May 31st
International Children's Day June 1st
Child Safety Week June 5th
Men's Health Week June 11th
Carer's Week June 11th Cervical Screening Awareness week June 12th
Father's Day June 17th
World Refugee Week June 18th - 24th
Day for International Justice July 17th
World Day Against Trafficking July 30th
Mary Sumner Day August 9th