

Clergy Newsletter

Spring 2019

LETTER FROM ALL IRELAND PRESIDENT, MRS JUNE BUTLER

I am delighted to take this opportunity to introduce myself through this Mothers' Union clergy newsletter. However, many of you will already know me in some other capacity, but mainly through my former role as Diocesan Secretary of Connor and Down and Dromore Dioceses.

COMMISSIONING

I officially took over as All-Ireland President in January 2019 succeeding Phyllis Grothier, who was such a dedicated and inspirational leader. I was elected to represent the zone of Ireland on the MU Worldwide Trustee Board. I have been commissioned as a Worldwide Trustee, alongside the new WW President Sheran Harper, by the Archbishop of Canterbury at a wonderful service in Southwark Cathedral.

I have also had my own very special commissioning as All Ireland President in Down Cathedral, Downpatrick, along with the full Ireland trustee body, and attended the commissioning of the new All-Ireland Chaplain, Canon Robert Deane in Christchurch Cathedral, Dublin.



UNITED NATIONS

I represented Mothers' Union at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in March 2019 in New York. Check my daily blog about my findings.



THANK YOU

On behalf of all our members, I would like to thank the outgoing All-Ireland Chaplain, Dean Raymond Ferguson, who has journeyed with us over the past seven years and guided and inspired us, with wisdom, love and humour, through so many services and other engagements. I also want to refer to the dedication of all past and present fellow trustees in Ireland for their faithfulness and commitment, as well as their unstinting personal work on so many fronts throughout the island; in addition they coordinate, offer advice and manage all the activities across the twelve dioceses.

MOTHERS' UNION SUPPORTING OTHERS

As you know, Mothers' Union already does an immense amount to support families and individuals in need (such as working in prisons, collecting for women's aid shelters, visiting the elderly, lonely and sick, helping at contact centres and food banks - to mention only a few) while also leading our own lives of prayer, helping in our parishes, organising services for members and raising funds for our work at home and also for MU projects worldwide.

In particular we are here to provide support for you, our clergy, in whatever capacity you may wish to use us. We are trying to develop new projects within the traditions and values of Mothers' Union and we would ask for your help on that score. If you have an idea or identify a need with which you think we could help in any way, please let us know. If you have a Mothers' Union branch in your parish then that is relatively easy but if you don't, please either contact someone from MU in your diocese or phone or email the MU office at St Michan's in Dublin (the details are on our website www.mothersunion.ie)

The Archbishop of Canterbury in February in his sermon in Southwark Cathedral said that the Mothers' Union was the best kept secret in the Anglican Communion and we needed to be more visible. We have four million members worldwide worshipping and working in 84 countries and we in Ireland feel we should be collaborating more closely with our clergy to serve better those in our parishes and communities. We do not want to hide our light under the bushel!

We think of what St Paul said in his letter to the Colossians: "Lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God". Please help us to help you to do just that!

Wishing you God's blessing for your continuing ministry

June

June Butler All-Ireland President

Our New All Ireland Chaplain was commissioned in Christ Church Cathedral Dublin on Saturday 6th April. Canon Robert Deane, former Rector of Swords and Donabate, in the Diocese of Dublin & Glendalough. We wish him Gods' richest blessing as he leads us spiritually over the next few years.

National Ploughing Championships, baby changing and feeding facilities will again be held on the 17th-19th September in Ballintranee, Fenagh, Co Carlow which is in the Diocese of Cashel, Ferns & Ossory.



*Left to Right
Canon R. Deane, Mrs June Butler, Canon Roy Byrne*



Womens Getaway

Please encourage the ladies in your Parish to join us on 18th/19th October 2019 in Armagh City Hotel, for fun and fellowship. Special speakers: Bishop Ken Clarke and Mrs Helen Clarke. For further information contact :- Barbara Clarke:- 07783569598/ bannclarke@hotmail.com or Mary Bourke – Sligo 0863800085 Bookings and Payment Before 5th September.

In 2018 Mothers' Union held 17 Events across Ireland to mark the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence. We are continuing this year with our 16 Days – Vigils starting on 23rd November 2019

Mother's Union has now published three small pocket-sized prayer books available for £1.95 each or £5.00 for three; Available at each branch or enterprise stall.

Mothers Union members are now very busy with Tea Parties/ Fit for Life Walks etc. to raise money for our Mums in May grant projects.

Our Indoor members are our valuable asset knitting, sewing, crochet and of course prayer. All indoor members are visited regularly by members for local branches and also receive cards for special occasions.

We support CHILDREN'S RIGHTS ALLIANCE.

Government has a key role in reducing child poverty, but its eradication will require a broad effort involving all of society. Poverty isn't inevitable and there are solutions. Our Government and decision-makers are being asked to act upon five key goals.

Food Every child will have a hot nutritious meal every day.

Health Every child will have access to basic healthcare when they need it.

Participation Every child will have the opportunity to take part in community-based arts and cultural activities

Education Every child will receive free primary education.

Housing: Every child will live in secure and affordable housing.

(MU Spin April '19)

Talk about Children's Mental Health

Mental Health Problems affect about 1 in 10 children and young people. They include depression, anxiety and conduct disorder, and are often a direct response to what is happening in their lives. www.place2be.org.uk



WOMEN'S AID Making Women and Children Safe (National Freephone Helpline) 1800 341 900

Useful Dates for your Diary.

Mental Health Awareness Week May 14th

International Day of Families May 15th

Dementia Awareness Week May 20th

World Hunger Day May 28th

International Children's Day June 1st

Child Safety Week June 3rd

Men's Health Week June 10th

Carer's Week June 10th

Cervical Screening Awareness week June 10th

Father's Day June 16th

World Refugee Week June 17th

Day for International Justice July 17th

World Day Against Trafficking July 30th

Mary Summer Day August 9th

(Spin April 2019)