

Coventry Diocese Mothers' Union

October Prayer Diary

Thurs 1st – Mon 5th

As Thursday is the International day of Older People and Sunday Grandparents day give thanks for older people in your community, pray for their well being. Give thanks for the intergenerational joy so many grandparents and their families experience and pray for those families where relationships are strained and painful.

We pray for families that are split, especially for grandparents who have lost sight of their grandchildren through separated or divorced parents (travel, or any other reason). Reach out to their emptiness; take them in your loving arms and grant them peace. We pray that there will be healing on all sides. Lord in your mercy, hear our cry.
AMEN (*Adapted from The prayers we breathe by J Seaman*)

Tue 6th

Later this week (on the 10th –when a lot is happening!) it is world Mental Health day and this year they are focussing on the work place. Let us bring to our loving heavenly Father all who feel depressed, stressed or unsupported at work. The increased numbers off work for mental health reasons is tragic, we pray for better resourcing of all mental health services. Let us pray for all involved in Social Care, the Crisis teams and those supporting families struggling with dementia.

Wed 7th

Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus
(*Philippians 4:6-7 New Living Translation*)

Thurs 8th

Give thanks for our President Karen and all our trustees who work so hard--- for all at Mary Sumner House and our members across the world. Pray for those who develop the written and electronic communications that are sent out----

Think of needs in your own church and community, give thanks for all God's blessings to you and ask his precious help where there are difficulties

Fri 9th

Tomorrow is our Members 150th anniversary Celebration lunch at St Barnabas Church, Earlsdon. Let us give thanks and pray for our members there, may they enjoy the fellowship and friendship of the time of preparation and ask the Lord to bless our special day.

Sat 10th – Mon 12th

World Homeless day

Jesus as a baby you were a refugee, as a man you had nowhere to lay your head. Make us aware of the homeless on our streets and of families without adequate shelter.

Give us wisdom to deal with the causes of these problems, that all may work together for better living conditions.

(from *World day of prayer*)

The statistics about the housing shortage in our country are horrific; think of how you and your family would feel if you were stuck in temporary accommodation, sharing facilities with many others; you and your child/children in one room Lord in your mercy, hear our cry

Let us give thanks for the MU Homeless project which is already helping 4 hostels in Coventry, and Doorway in Nuneaton. Father please bless all involved in these projects and the new monthly soup kitchen in Hillfields. May your love be shown and appreciated.

Mon 13th – Wed 14th

This is Prisons week and we pray for Lynda, Heather and Rosie who support families at Onley Prison. As you pray imagine you were visiting a new prisoner who is your loved one – what do you do? – what is the routine? – how would you and your family cope?

Pray too for Chris supporting those at Ryehill Prison. Give thanks that our Christmas cards and Angel tree presents for the children are well received

Give thanks for the chaplains, the Christian services that are held, the prison visitors and pray for all prisoners –the long, long days, the risk of abuse and drug addiction and --
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Thurs 15th - Sat 17th

Please pray for Kapsabet and our other link dioceses – Akot in South Sudan; South West Tanganyika in Tanzania; Aba & Irele-Ese Odo in Nigeria and Cuttack in India. Please look with favour on our Mothers' Union family, please give them success in their different projects to support their communities.

Sun 18th St Luke's Day

We give thanks for the physician St Luke for his Gospel and witness

We pray for all who minister to the Sick and dying in hospitals, hospices and the community and give thanks for the NHS and the vision of its founders. In these days of uncertainty and financial difficulties we pray for its preservation, continuation and growth. May more people be called to practice medicine and nursing. May the breakthroughs in medical research and innovative technology be available for all. We pray if possible for cure, but care, comfort in abundance and healing when that is not possible. Amen

Mon 19th – Fri 23rd

This is Breast Cancer Awareness month – we thank God for the wonderful advances in treatment, the excellent screening programme and pray there would be an increase in early detection. We also pray for those (and their families) where cure hasn't been possible

The 24th is 'Wear it pink for Breast cancer'

Pray for your local NHS staff, surgeries and hospitals

We remember how difficult life is for our hospices at present with rising costs, their dependence on volunteers and fundraising – they receive less than 20% of their funding from the government.

Sat 24th

The start of half term – we pray for families to enjoy this autumn break; thank God for the opportunities school and education offer; pray for families who fear the extra cost of holiday time.

Sun 25th As we worship God today with others may this shortened poem by Linda Mitchell encourage you

Open hearts and open hands calling out to you
Your light shining in the darkness
Deep called to deep, sacred time with you.

Hearts and souls bare, open, calling out to you
Peaceful, prayerful sacred place
Deep calls to deep in the sacred place,
Spirit seeking spirit, hope, love, grace.

This special sacred holy place, centuries of prayer,
Peaceful encounters, your spirit present there
Something profound is happening,
you have plans for us we know
Yes, we are ready to let God and let go.

A prayer for the Mothers' Union Patron

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness, we humbly beseech thee to bless our Patron Sophie, Duchess of

Edinburgh and all the Royal Family: Endue them with thy Holy Spirit; enrich them with thy heavenly grace; prosper them with all happiness; and bring them to thine everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Mon 26th - Fri 30th

Autumn Blessings

In this wonderful season of autumn may we give praise and thanks to you, Creator God. Please continually open our senses to appreciate the beauty around us, and help us to protect earth's precious and finite resources
May the falling leaves remind us of the beauty of change, and the crisp air bring us the strength to rest in God's grace, knowing that this season brings a harvest of new opportunities.

Father, as the verdant greens turn to the richness of yellow bronze and gold, we are reminded of the richness of your love and sacrifice for us, more costly than gold or precious metals. Thank you for your unfailing love, the nights may be drawing in with the passing of another season and changing landscape, but your love is constant, a solid and unchanging rock, timeless and everlasting. AMEN

Sat 31st Halloween

We may feel this has been hijacked by secularism and consumerism and it can be a challenging time for parents. Pray for healthy celebrations at this time, thinking particularly of youngsters who may be frightened.

