



Registered Charity No. 251394



Thursday Prayer 2026

**THEME for 2026: "JOIN US and JOIN IN
MU is changing lives."**

**Thursday Prayer is held in Ely Cathedral (usually in the Presbytery), on
the 3rd Thursday of every month unless otherwise stated
from 10.30-11am**

**They are also held at All Saint's Church, St Ives
on 4th Thursday of each month at 2.30-3pm**

See dates on inside front cover

**Friends and family members are very welcome to attend as well.
Each month we use a common theme and pray for a special concern.
We also reflect upon our own membership of the Mothers' Union. If
you are unable to attend, please use these prayers in your own group or
home.**

**Thursday Prayer is also available on zoom.
Please see monthly MU Newsletter for details.**

Dates for Thursday Prayer 2026

Cathedral, Zoom and St Ives

January	15	22
February	19	26
March	19	26
April	16	23
May	21	28
*June	*4	25
July	16	23
August	20	27
September	17	24
October	15	22
*November	*12	26
*December	17	10

***Please note the months *June and *November are not on the 3rd Thursday due to activities taking place in the cathedral. Also, the fourth Thursday in *December is moved to the second Thursday due to it falling on Christmas Eve.**

Suggested Guide for Thursday Prayer

Introductory prayers

- *opening prayer;*
- *prayers for members and events in the Diocese;*
- *prayers for the theme and focus of the month;*

Bible reading and meditation

- *Bible reading;*
- *Meditation spoken upon the theme/focus or Bible reading either using own words or a chosen passage;*

Further prayer

- *an opportunity to offer personal concerns to God, either aloud or in silence;*
- *the Lord's Prayer;*
- *the Mothers' Union Prayer;*
- *the Thursday Prayer;*
- *the Grace;*

Hymn

- *a hymn or piece of music of the leader's choice may be used where it is considered appropriate. The Cathedral hymn book is the New English Hymnal.*

Our intercessions

In our intercessions we are asked to pray for:

- **The worldwide work of the Mothers' Union;**
- **Kathleen Snow, our Worldwide President;**
- **The Chief Executive; Beverley Jullien**
- **The Task Group Co-ordinators in Faith in Action, Praying our Faith, Finance & Administration and Communications.**
- **All who work in Mary Sumner House;**
- **Our province of Canterbury and Comfort Fearon, our Provincial President.**
- **Our Worldwide Links:**
 - Lusaka in Zambia**
 - Shyogwe in Rwanda**
 - Sokoto & Ikka in Nigeria**
 - Karimnagar in India**
 - Plus Diocese to Diocese with Kigali & Vellore**

The monthly prayers included in this booklet are mostly taken from the new MU books of prayers, "Dear God", "Praying in Every Season", and the Pocket Prayers series – "Faith in Action", "United in Fellowship" and "Vision and Mission"

The Mothers' Union Prayer

Loving Lord,

We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.

We pray for families around the world.

Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.

Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service, reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. Amen

The Thursday Prayer

Heavenly Father, you have called us apart to share in a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer. Take our prayers we humbly ask, fill them with your love and power, and use them in the cause of your glorious kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

15th JANUARY 2026

Focus: 150 years of Mothers' Union: Celebrations – JOIN US and JOIN IN

Reading: Jeremiah 29: 11

Prayer: Almighty God, we give thanks for the 150 years of Mothers' Union, for the faithful ministry of Mary Sumner and all members, and for the many blessings You have given to families and communities around the world. Glorify Your name now and forevermore.

Amen

19th FEBRUARY 2026

Focus: Lent

Reading: Matthew 5: 3-12

Prayer: Almighty and ever living God, you invite us deeper into your world, your people, your Lent. May this time be one of outward focus; seeking you in those we often ignore. Help us live a Lent focused on freedom, generosity, and encounter. Give us hearts hungry to serve you and those who need what we have to give. In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen

19th MARCH 2026

Focus: The Resurrection and the Life.

Reading: John 11: 14 -27

Prayer: Dear God, our Heavenly Father, enable us to worship you in faith and hope, motivated by love. May your promise to Abraham that all peoples on earth would be blessed through him and his family, be also your promise to us as we seek to heal the wounds of those who are suffering in our broken world.

**We ask this in the resurrection hope of our blessed Lord.
Amen**

16th APRIL 2026

Focus: Easter

Reading: Luke 24: 13-35

Prayer: Lord mighty and righteous, our hope and our inheritance, we give you thanks for all the spiritual blessings you have for us, your people. In Christ you gave us new hope. By his grace you redeemed us and adopted us. You accepted us as heirs and co-heirs of your kingdom. And that is the hope we live by in faith. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

21st MAY 2026

Focus: Ascension

Reading: Acts 1: 6-14

Prayer: Almighty God, your ascended Son has sent us into the world to preach the good news of your kingdom: inspire us with your Spirit and fill our hearts with the fire of your love, that all who hear your Word may be drawn to you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

4th June 2026

Focus: Faith First

Reading: Romans 5:1-8

Prayer: Heavenly Father, give us the faith to look to Jesus crucified and risen from the dead. Faith to see the invisible, and do the impossible; faith invincible in the face of evil and death. Faith to pass on the good news of Jesus to the next generation; faith to live in sustainable ways to bless the earth you created. Faith to take up our cross and follow Jesus all our days until we come to our eternal home.

**In Jesus' name,
Amen**

16th JULY 2026

Focus: Listening to God

Reading: Romans 8: 1-11

Prayer: Loving Lord, we give thanks that you have prepared our way and strengthen us at every stage with hope and resolve. God of unchanging power, your Holy Spirit enables us to proclaim your love in challenging times and places. Give to the members of Mothers' Union steadfastness, fresh understanding and a clear vision, that together, we may respond to the call to be your disciples and so rejoice in the blessings of your kingdom. We ask this in the name of Him who gave His life that ours might flourish, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen

20th AUGUST 2026

Focus: The Vision of Mary Sumner

Reading: Revelation 14: 13

Prayer: Lord of all, we give thanks for the far-reaching vision of our founder, Mary Sumner. We look back with praise and gratitude for her witness and the way she has inspired so many people. Our members worldwide have been beacons of hope for their communities, both with prayer and practical help, bringing joy and reflecting the love of our Saviour Jesus Christ. We pray that we will be able to continue her vision, ensuring that the role of Mothers' Union will flourish and grow as we unite to be helping hands across the world.

Amen

17th SEPTEMBER 2026

Focus: Quiet Days

Reading: 1 John 5: 14-15

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you for the confidence we have in your promises. Grant us a deeper understanding of Your will, that our prayers may always align with it. As we trust in You, may we know that You hear us and have already granted our requests. In Jesus' name, Amen

15th OCTOBER 2026

Focus: Peace

Reading: Matthew 5: 9

**Prayer: Heavenly Father, as we come before you today, we pray for peace – peace among us, peace in our nation, peace in the world. Help us all to learn to accept each other, regardless of our differences, in a loving way; to be tolerant and treat each other in a kind, loving and gentle way. Help us to reconcile any hurt or malice we may have and to learn to love and respect one another regardless of race, creed, gender or views.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen**

12th NOVEMBER 2026

Focus: 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence and 'Rise Up' against domestic abuse.

Reading: Romans 12: 19-21

**Prayer: Our Father in heaven, we ask that, as part of Mothers' Union, we can, together, find new enthusiasm to fight evil with love. In Christ, we form one body and each has different gifts according to the grace given. Some teach, some lead; others have ideas and so on. Together we serve and share our hospitality with those who are in need. We pray for those who experience gender-based violence or domestic abuse, offering practical help to victims where we can. Lord, we ask that we might all come together to further raise awareness of this blight and so bring us nearer to ending gender-based violence / abuse in all forms and in all societies.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our saviour,
Amen**

17th DECEMBER 2026

Focus: The coming of Christ

Reading: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, as we prepare for your coming, we read the words of the prophets written long before your birth, giving us hope and encouragement that all people will be united and the land will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord. Help us, Lord, to open our hearts and minds to these truths and to gladly receive you, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

We pray that through the power of Christ and in love and unity with each other we may be enabled to:

- **support, promote and strengthen marriage;**
- **help families to explore and enjoy faith together;**
- **build a Christian community that is grounded in faith and love;**
- **support all forms of family life;**
- **help those facing adversity.**

"How lavish is our God! We celebrate his generosity to us with thankful hearts".



The Thursday Prayer is prepared and published by the Praying our Faith Team of Ely Diocese Mothers' Union. Please feel free to photocopy as many booklets as you need for your branch/ group's use.

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Ely

Registered Charity No. 251394