



FEBRUARY

The selfless love of Christ

February



REFLECTION

'God proves His love to us in that whilst we were sinners Christ died for us' Romans 5:8.
God came to us as man, in Jesus, and gave Himself for each and every one of us. Jesus never asked for anything from us, except for us to love one another. Do we do that? We are all sisters and brothers in Christ, but do we follow His example and love each other unconditionally? How can we show Christ's love this month? Maybe through the giving of time to MU programme work, sharing a card and prayer with an indoor member?



MONTHLY PRAYER

Loving Lord, we thank You for the endless and selfless love that You have given to us. We know that every one of Your children is known to You and loved by You, no matter what. We give thanks for the example of love that we see in You. Let those who do not know Your love or those who have not experienced love as a person should, feel Your presence, hear Your word and know Your presence, now and always. Amen



CREATIVE PRAYER

Dear Lord, Your son Jesus Christ grew to manhood to be a skilled carpenter, constantly learning at the side of His earthly father, Joseph. Encourage, nurture and bless us, with gifts of creativity, enriching us in so many ways, as we work to share our faith and love through the work of Mothers' Union worldwide.

DAILY PRAYERS

1-7 February

Sunday 1

We thank God for His faithfulness. We praise Him for all He has done for us in Christ and pray to glorify Him with a thankful heart. We praise Him for the opportunity He has given us in working for Mothers' Union.

Monday 2
(Candlemas)

Thanks be to God that, on seeing the Holy Family in the Temple, Simeon held Jesus, praised You and acclaimed Him to be a 'light for revelation to the Gentiles'. The prophet Anna gave thanks and proclaimed Him as her Redeemer.

Tuesday 3

Praise and thanksgiving to Jesus, who conformed to the expected rituals of his day, bringing light into the dark places of the world. Encourage us through Mother's Union to be a source of love and hope in the world.

Wednesday 4

Lord Jesus, Your presence uplifts us and Your words provide courage when needed. Please help us through Mothers' Union to serve others, especially people who are experiencing challenges in their lives.

Thursday 5

Through the selfless love and teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ, help us to always consider the welfare of other people above our own, to encourage them and be encouraged by them.

Friday 6

Lord Jesus, we in Mothers' Union pray for Your compassion and love to support everyone who suffers anxiety, bewilderment and stress. Renew and restore their lives through Your selfless love.

Saturday 7

Lord, we thank You that Mary Sumner responded to Your love and founded Mothers' Union 150 years ago. Now we, enfolded in Your love, seek to share it with others throughout the world.

WAVE OF PRAYER

2-4 February: Matlosane in South Africa; Mumias in Kenya; Eha-Amufu in Nigeria; Ballarat in Australia; Niagara in Canada and North Kerala in India

5-7 February: Botswana; Marsabit in Kenya; Idah & Jebba in Nigeria; Salisbury in England and Andaman & Nicobar Islands in India

DAILY PRAYERS

8-14 February

Sunday 8

Loving Lord, I ask for Your grace to love others generously, being mindful of everyone's needs. I do not expect anything in return, other than the fulfilment of serving You.

Monday 9

In Christ we have our guide, as we see Him constantly giving of Himself. In His name, may we, as members of Mothers' Union, selflessly offer ourselves for the good of others.

Tuesday 10

Loving Lord, we are called to love one another as You love us. Help us to walk in Your footsteps to show Your love to all we see and meet in our daily lives.

Wednesday 11

Lord Jesus, in this groaning world, help us to set our eyes on You, and seek to join with our fellow Mothers Union members as hands across the world in service to You.

Thursday 12

Lord, help us to follow Jesus by being a listening friend, who keeps confidences when others trust us with their concerns or problems. We pray as Jesus taught us, to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Friday 13

Lord Jesus, all things come from You. Please may we be set free to follow Your example and hold all the things You have given us with an open hand, being generous and sharing with others.

Saturday 14
(Feast of St. Valentine)

Valentine was a priest martyred at Rome under Emperor Claudius. medieval belief that it was the day when birds mated. For Christians the day is an acknowledgement of an all-loving God who blesses those who love one another.

WAVE OF PRAYER

9-11 February: Lainya in South Sudan; Ankole in Uganda; Abuja & Lagos-West in Nigeria; Lichfield in England and Karnataka North in India

12-14 February: Matana in Burundi; South Ankole in Uganda; Morogoro in Tanzania; Ohaji/Egbema in Nigeria; New Westminster in Canada and Dornakal in India

DAILY PRAYERS

15-19 February

The son said “Father, I have sinned against Heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son” But the Father said “Let’s celebrate. This son of mine was dead and is alive again; was lost and is found”

Luke 15: 21 & 24 (NIV)

Sunday 15

As we reflect on the story of the Prodigal Son, help us to show selfless love to others as we do our best to help those in need. May we, like Jesus, show Christian love and compassion every day.

Monday 16

Jesus forgave sins. May we too know His healing power of forgiveness and acceptance for ourselves; then for our families, our communities and the world around us.

Tuesday 17

Lord, too often we take for granted the One who is our dearest friend. We fail to seek His wisdom and His perfect will for our lives. It is a wonderful privilege to carry everything to God through prayer.

Wednesday 18

(Beginning of Lent, Ash Wednesday)
With the sign of the cross on our forehead in ashes, we acknowledge our sinfulness and need for forgiveness from God. We pray for a new and contrite heart and to rest in God, where true joy can be found.

Thursday 19

Loving Lord, in faith help us in Mothers’ Union always keep a Holy Lent with you. Fill our hearts with sorrow for our past failings and may we have loving confidence in all your plans for us in the future.

WAVE OF PRAYER

16-18 February: Bentiu in South Sudan; Bunyoro Kitara in Uganda; Okigwe-North & Omu- Aran in Nigeria; Kilmore, Elphin & Ardagh in All Ireland and Krishna-Godavari in India

19-21 February: Free State in South Africa; Bondo in Kenya; Ogbia & Offa in Nigeria; Swansea & Brecon in Wales; Argentina and Uruguay

DAILY PRAYERS

20-21 February

Friday 20

Heavenly Father, we thank You for Your love which embraces us all, and for Your son, Jesus Christ, who teaches us to be kind and to love one another. We pray that we will endeavour to do this in our daily lives.

Saturday 21

Lord God, we seek to follow the example of Jesus’ humility. Let us rejoice in being last instead of first and work to be helpful to ease the burden of the most vulnerable in our communities.

‘The Lord is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and Your dominion endures through all generations.’

Psalm 145: 8-9 & 13 (NIV)



DAILY PRAYERS

22-28 February

Sunday 22

Almighty God, there are all kinds of love, but none so great as that of our Saviour, who gave His life for us. May His selfless love for humanity be a beacon in our lives, as we strive to be an example in this troubled world.

Monday 23

Eternal Father, Your beloved Son sacrificed His life because of His selfless love for us all. Bless us in Mother's Union with His desire to help as many people as possible through our lives.

Tuesday 24

We pray for the troubled places in the world where there is conflict and war, starvation, and homelessness. We pray that powerful figures will have compassion and heed the plight of innocent men, women and children.

Wednesday 25

Loving Lord, give me the strength to face today with optimism and hope. Remind me I am not alone and that You are with me to guide me through whatever situations I come across.

Thursday 26

All of us are promised to belong to God's everlasting kingdom through the love and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lord, we pray to be compassionate and share this love freely through the work of Mothers' Union.

Friday 27

Defend O Lord, we thy servants with thy Holy Spirit, that we may continue thine forever and daily increase in Thy Holy Spirit more and more until we come to Thy heavenly kingdom. (Book of Common Prayer)

Saturday 28

On this 150th anniversary of Mothers' Union, we thank You, Lord, for Mary Sumner, who faithfully stepped up to empower women and girls and spoke out in favour of gender equality and women's rights.

WAVE OF PRAYER

23-25 February: Wau in South Sudan; Kigeme in Rwanda; Bauchi in Nigeria; St David's in Wales and Mandalay in Myanmar

26-28 February: Mundri in South Sudan; Madi & West Nile in Uganda; Isikwuatu in Nigeria; Chichester in England and Seoul in South Korea



Jesus said 'I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die'

John 11:25-26 (NIV)