



JULY

Sharing our faith

July



REFLECTION

Jesus tells us to go and make disciples of all nations. At this time of year, we seem to have more time to do things, but do we have the courage to witness to our faith with pride, showing respect for others while remaining steadfast to our calling? St. Francis of Assisi said, 'Go out to preach the Gospel, and only if necessary should we use words.' Mothers' Union was founded on faith; it continues to be built on faith by lives lived in faith for the future of our faith. Let us share this rich faith generously.



MONTHLY PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of faith that we have received from you. Please help us to know more deeply for ourselves the transforming power of the Gospel in our own lives. As we draw encouragement from your gracious gift to us, give us a greater desire to share the Good News with the people we meet, so that they, too, may find hope and may know for themselves the riches of your love. Through your Holy Spirit, may our words and actions bear witness to your presence, through Christ our Lord, Amen.



CREATIVE PRAYER

Take a walk around your community and pray as you walk, for the local businesses, for those who live there, for those who serve in the community such as police, fire and ambulance services, for the schools and school-crossing people, for the town council and for those who keep our parks and green spaces looking their best.

DAILY PRAYERS

1-4 July

Wednesday 1

Heavenly Father, in this summer month, help us to be more aware of the warmth of Your love. Enable us, we pray, to share it with all people, that others may be inspired to 'Join Us, Join In.'

Thursday 2

As we sit on Your bus of life, remind us of journeys, in our heart that bring You flooding in; for experiences like the sand between our toes, and walking in the small waves, feet washed, prepared and ready. What's next, Lord?

Friday 3

Lord Jesus, as the doubts of St Thomas were dispelled by your living presence, give us confidence in taking your love into our world. May troubled hearts come to know that by your wounds we are healed.

Saturday 4

Heavenly Father, teach us to reach out our hands to others whose experiences are so different from our own; that we may find a common thread, standing together, prepared to share our Mothers' Union, our gem of support and love.



WAVE OF PRAYER

1 July: Eastern Zambia in Zambia; Mombasa in Kenya; Gwagwalada & Ekiti-West in Nigeria; Leicester in England and Temotu in Solomon Islands

2-4 July: Renk in South Sudan; Cyangugu in Rwanda; Arochukwu/Ohafia & Ile- Oluji in Nigeria; St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane in Scotland and Sittwe in Myanmar

DAILY PRAYERS

5-11 July

Sunday 5

'In your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.'

1 Peter 3: 15 (NIV)

Monday 6

Creator God, in this anniversary year we give thanks for the unity and fellowship that Mothers' Union brings to people throughout our world. Help us to learn from one another as we unite to sing your praise.

Tuesday 7

Remind me, God, of the lightness of love as well as its depths. Help me to keep a sense of humour and an openness to the wonders around us that shine in the darkness of our world.

Wednesday 8

I look out of my window open, blowing in, the smell of sweetness, mixing flowers, dew and newly mown lawns - teach us to be able to share, with each word, a grateful witness to You, and Your never-ending love!

Thursday 9

Help me, God, to discern what I may share with others of my own faith journey. May I be a source of solidarity, hope and encouragement.

Friday 10

Lord, we thank You for all that AFIA is doing to show your compassion to families in need of support. Bless the children and parents, that they may know the wonder of Your care for them.

Saturday 11

Dear Lord, thank You for sharing our life in this world. Help us to see how our joys and sorrows, hopes and fears unite with the story of Your love. Show us how to share our faith in You.

WAVE OF PRAYER

6-8 July: Wad Medani in Sudan; Kondoia in Tanzania; Ikwo & Remo in Nigeria; Montreal in Canada and the Windward Islands in St Lucia, Grenada, St Vincent & The Grenadines

9-11 July: El Obeid in Sudan; Butere in Kenya; Nnewi in Nigeria; London in England and the Province of the USA

DAILY PRAYERS

12-18 July

Sunday 12
(Sea Sunday)

'Some went out on the sea in ships; they were merchants on the mighty waters. They saw the works of the Lord, His wonderful deeds in the deep.'
Psalm 107:23-24 (NIV)

Monday 13

Jesus, help us to be unafraid of plumbing the depths of our darkness, so that our actions may be based on reality and truth, with trust in Your love.

Tuesday 14

Amongst the troubles around us, help us to look to the light, to see the actions that will help. As Jesus avoided wordy arguments, help us to give others food for thought.

Wednesday 15

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.
(Reinhold Niebuhr, 1992-1971)

Thursday 16

Father God, open our minds and our hearts so that we may see and understand the struggles that others face. Help us to know how to bring healing into troubled lives.

Friday 17

Help us to do as we would be done to, and then to go further in charity. May we be able to put ourselves into the shoes of others and, with our resources, respond in the way that is best.

Saturday 18

Father, help us to remember that nothing in this world can separate us from Your love in Christ Jesus. May we never despair. Enable us to bring peace into the turmoil of our society and our world.

WAVE OF PRAYER

13-15 July: Toliara in Madagascar; Mbale in Uganda; Zaria & Ndokwa in Nigeria; Rochester in England and Chhattisgarh in India

16-18 July: Lake Malawi in Malawi; Byumba in Rwanda; Jalingo in Nigeria; St Edmundsbury & Ipswich in England and Lucknow in India

DAILY PRAYERS

19-25 July

Sunday 19

'Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.'
Matthew 9:35 (NIV)

Monday 20

Father, as school holidays approach I pray for patience and wisdom, in all the long days hold. Let us be ready and open to the small things of nature, to illuminate young, inquisitive minds: learning and sharing the journeys of the summer together.

Tuesday 21

I recall the people who wander our streets and who have no home of their own. Almighty God, help them to find their home in You, and help us to serve the needs of those whom our society forgets.

Wednesday 22

So, I sit, I stand, I wander and listen; my senses refreshed with the sounds around me. My thoughts turn to now and to possibilities for the future, the call to new ways. Bless Mothers' Union, bless You.

Thursday 23

Servant King, teach us to look beyond our own needs and to see that no one is excluded from Your kindness and care. Bless our outreach to prisoners. Help them to experience Your forgiveness and to walk in Your light.

Friday 24

Release me from the craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful, but not moody, helpful but not bossy.
(Excerpt from the prayer of a 17th-century nun)

Saturday 25

'Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could only do a little' (Edmund Burke) Help us to see where we can add the drops of water that can create an ocean of compassion.

WAVE OF PRAYER

20-22 July: Gitega in Burundi; Murag'a South and Mbeere in Kenya; Enugu North in Nigeria; Tonga in Diocese of Polynesia and Jaffna in Diocese of Church of South India

23-25 July: George in South Africa; Bungoma in Kenya; Western Tanganyika in Tanzania; Ideato in Nigeria; Sodor & Man in Isle of Man and Toronto in Canada

DAILY PRAYERS

26-31 July

Sunday 26

'When you are brought before synagogues, rulers and authorities, do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.'

Luke 12:11-12 (NIV)

Monday 27

Thank You, Father, for rest: time not doing the usual things. For time apart, in the stillness and quiet. Thank You for the space within my heart, for me, for others, granted by You.

Tuesday 28

Holy Spirit, the fire of God's love, help us to speak to the hearts of people who do not yet know You as their creator and redeemer. We pray for transformation in their lives and in our own.

Wednesday 29

Lord Jesus, we pray for a childlike faith that does not lay claim to things beyond our understanding. Help us to be curious about people we meet and to find the words to point them to Your kingdom.

Thursday 30

Lord, help us to speak with humility and insight. May we avoid misunderstandings as we seek to share with others the hope and faith that fill our hearts.

Friday 31

Heavenly Father, in this anniversary year, we give thanks for the faith and vision of Mary Sumner. May our hearts be filled with the same eagerness to share Your Gospel with joy, in word and in action.

WAVE OF PRAYER

27-29 July: Northern Zambia in Zambia; Mpwapwa in Tanzania; Gusau & Osun in Nigeria; Sydney in Australia and Rayalaseema in India

30-31 July: Boga in DR Congo; Manicaland in Zimbabwe; Tanga in Tanzania; Ogoni in Nigeria; Carlisle in England and Melbourne in Australia

