

CLERGY NEWSLETTER. JUNE 2021.

RE BUILDING HOPE AND CONFIDENCE.

As I start writing this letter, it is a beautiful evening at the beginning of June. Yes, we have had a very wet, cold spell but the sun has now appeared. This time last year we were all in Lockdown and would have been delighted to have been able to get out, even in the wet and cold weather.

It has been a very difficult time here in Ireland and Worldwide. However, we have now reached the stage of easing of restrictions and may we thank you for all your support not only to our members but also to the community projects which they have been involved in.

We, like the other organizations, and yourselves have found it difficult to reach out the way we would have liked but we have all joined in using Zoom, Webinars, telephone etc to keep the lines of communication open.

Our Dioceses and branches in Ireland have risen to the changes, as Linda put it at our Zoom breakfast "Get-Away weekend". Many sat scratching their head while MU rolled up their sleeves – adopted, collaborated, looked for gaps and ways to make people's lives easier, less strained, less traumatic and then taken action.



Yes, we covered considerable hospital needs, handcrafts, items for Women's Aid Centres as shown in my previous Clergy Letter and our MU All Ireland Web Site.

We are at present working on raising funds for our "Mums in May" account and this has involved our All Ireland President, June Butler, embarking on a 21/21 walk. June plans to walk 7 kms X 3 (21 kms) in each Diocese in Ireland – a total of 252 kms.

This is a wonderful undertaking by June and she hopes to raise money for this valuable fund which allocates grants for worthy causes at home.

All our members are encouraged to participate in this event by walking the "21" or in any other way – baking items, reading 21 books, 21 Chapters Bible etc.



AFIA (Away from it all Holidays) This year has been different and more imaginative in how we have administered this scheme. MU has used the scheme to help family and carers who need a break or a different experience at this time of the Pandemic. We

can in some small way help to try and build family relationships by focusing on the immediate needs and perhaps have financial problems. Referrals should come as before, from you – the Clergy- to your Diocesan President; please consider and avail of this service.



Our Prayer Diary 2020 – Tackling Domestic Abuse in Ireland and Challenging Gender-based Violence Worldwide has been a dedicated campaign and priority focus for Mothers' Union since 2013. One in three worldwide experience abuse in their lifetime. Thus, the theme, (No more 1-3) echoed throughout our 16 Days of Activism.

All Diocese in Ireland have hosted online Services and reflections. We continue to ask for your prayers in the Parish of which you are the Rector and please contact the Enrolling Member/Branch Leader with details of anyway we can help as we move forward in Hope and Confidence in Gods' work.

I have added a letter from Canon Robert Deane the All Ireland Chaplin and thank him for all the Work with Mothers' Union and conducting the Services both on line and now live from Christ Church Cathedral Dublin.

Beth Wortley, (All Ireland Faith and Policy Coordinator).

June 2021

Dear Colleagues,

The days roll by, turning into weeks and months, and here we are in June 2021. How time has flown!

Covid-19 is still with us with its accompanying restrictions, though there does seem to be more light at the end of the tunnel than there has been, due in no small part to the various vaccination roll-outs currently underway, not to mention the selfless abiding by medical advice undertaken by the vast majority of people!

So much has changed over the months from what we were used to back in March 2020, but one thing that hasn't changed is the on-going work of Mothers' Union. Programmes and initiatives are still much the same, but the imaginative ways of "doing" Mothers' Union in Ireland has been a revelation and a game-changer.

The use of technology has meant that the business of Mothers' Union, whether parochial, diocesan or at All Ireland level has been permitted to continue unabated.



It has also enabled Diocesan Services to be held, ensuring no-one has to travel, but most importantly that all may participate (up to the zoom capacity, that is). Web-cams, on-line streaming and recordings have meant members can remain “part of the group” without endangering themselves or others. And where technology may be unavailable to some, steps have been taken that as far as possible no one gets left behind.

There’s been a bit of a revolution going on, but it has meant the core work of Mothers’ Union has continued. If you have a moment, the Mothers’ Union All Ireland Web-site, which is very attractive, informative and easy to navigate, provides so much up-to-date news, events, competitions, reviews, and loads more!

Finally, I would like to commend all Mothers’ Union branches throughout Ireland, their members and various diocesan personnel to your prayerful support and encouragement. Each member does such wonderful work, often unnoticed and in the background. But it also makes me proud to say that they, like so many in the Church and society in general, have responded generously to the prevailing circumstances, stepped up to the mark, and ensured the work does not stop.

God bless each one of them in all their endeavours.

With every good wish to you and yours, and every blessing in your ministry,

Robert Deane

Mothers’ Union All Ireland Chaplain.



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.