

Reflection June 2024



My Dear Friends, greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. June, the time of year when a lot of us set off on our travels. For some that may mean watching travel programmes on the television, you can travel to some very out of the way and interesting places without even leaving your comfy armchair, and you get to see right up close what the broadcaster is looking at, whether that's an interesting animal or a beautiful landscape. When I was a little girl, I loved to read the stories about The Magic Faraway Tree, perhaps you did too. In her books Enid Blyton was very good at taking you out of this world and into a world of make believe and magic. As a child I think that is what we needed, but we sometimes need to be transported out of this world even as older adults. I have been very lucky in my life and have travelled a lot of the world, but I have always done so with a member of my family. But travelling is not always that simple and as I write this our Worldwide President, Sheran, is just coming to the end of her travels with Jeanette from MSH. They have been visiting and working with Members, Bishops, Archbishops, Provincial Council members etc in Australia, New Zealand, and the Solomon Islands for nearly a month. Sheran will remain in the UK for a short time before flying home to her husband in Guyana. By the time she returns home she will have been away working on our behalf for nearly two months. We thank God for her dedication and love of the MU and its work, and we give thanks too for the love of her husband which allows her to devote so much of her time to us. Her term of office comes to an end at the end of this year, and we continue to pray that God will touch the heart and mind of the person he has chosen to follow in her footsteps. It reminds me of the way Jesus called his Disciples, asking them to give up everything and follow him. [We can read about the disciples in Mark 3: 13-19]. Follow him into the unknown, showing them the way forward and challenging them with tasks they never thought they could do. He calls us also and challenges us to follow paths we never thought possible. This reminds me of the Hymn I, the Lord of sea and sky, particularly the chorus which challenges us to listen for god's voice as it says, **Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.** So, as we walk forward into summer and hopefully some suitable weather, I pray that you will be able to find time and energy to lean on our Heavenly Father, take His hand in yours and walk into new adventures.



It is summer in my garden and there are lots of things to look at from potatoes and raspberries to peonies and roses, plenty of new adventures there because no two years are ever alike. It will soon be time for this year's Summer of Hope Campaign when we will be asked to undertake an activity to support the work of the MU throughout the world, a different challenge each year. If you are able, please support this worthwhile event in any way you can. I wish you a summer filled with hope and new adventure, even if you are not able to go any further than looking out of the window.

Love & Prayers

Jenny

Let us Pray

Father, we thank you for the gift of travel, whether that is through our TV screens, the opportunity to explore more of our own country or find new adventures in other countries around our beautiful world. We thank you for your creation which brings new life and hope with the changing seasons, and we thank you for safe journeys and the safe haven we find in your loving arms.

Father, we ask your blessing on our Worldwide President, Sheran trusting in your love to keep her safe she travels the world to further the work of the MU. Be with her family and enable her to spend more time with them, enjoying their company.

Father, we pray for the members of staff at MSH, particularly our CEO Bev, and the members of the Senior Leadership Team, Rob, Adam, Steph, and Richard. Walk with them at this time of transformation as we head towards the end of one Triennium and enter another.

Father, we thank you for the fruits of your creation. For the flowers we enjoy, giving us colour and texture shape and form to enjoy. For food we grow or enjoy day by day allowing us to taste and smell the many different varieties. We remember those who will not eat this day, help us to do what we can to share the world's resources fairly.

Father, we remember that as you called your first disciples, so you call us into your service. Show us the way, teach us new ways, and lead us into new adventures. Help us to make new disciples so that your kingdom may grow on earth as it does in heaven. We ask this and all our prayers in the name of Jesus our Saviour. AMEN

BLESSINGS

Just to say Thank You, for showing that you care, just to say Thank You, I offer now this prayer. May the Lord lovingly, bless you each and every day, May his peace be always, with you for this I truly pray, may his love keep and help you in all you do and say, may his Spirit lead and guide you along life's winding way.

The Columban Fathers