



**MU AUSTRALIA**  
**Prayer & Spirituality Department**  
**Newsletter 1 – 2010**



Remember the motive of repentance is hope; the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand; it always is. What is going to stimulate us to this [repentance] is not even our shame at our own shortcomings; it is going to be the steady practice of that companionship with Jesus Christ..... In your prayers think of Him; in making your plans, either for tomorrow or for the future, think of Him. Everywhere be turning back to Him and 'let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus'. *William Temple. Christian Faith and Life*

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22nd February 2010

Dear Friends,

It is Sunday afternoon as I write to you all. Recently we had a very busy weekend in one of our parishes in Rockhampton diocese – three days of different celebrations and worship. It was one of those times when there was a mixture of happiness and sadness as the worshipping community was moving from one old church that it had outgrown to a new site. The parishioners had worked hard preparing the worship, the buildings and gardens, historical displays and offering hospitality. I was struck again by how generous people are in their giving time and energy. I was also reflecting on the faithfulness through change. Both marvellous gifts. As I was speaking with one of the “faithful”, I said “Time to go home and put your feet up for the afternoon”. Her response was “ I knew I had to travel the whole journey. It was like Holy Week, from the joy of Palm Sunday, through the sadness of Good Friday to the beginning of something quite new. “ It was a good summation.

We have just begun the Lenten season. It must be a sign of getting a bit older that every year I am taken by surprise at how quickly it comes around. I find I have to quickly resolve how I will observe the season. It is good the way the Sunday before Lent has the gospel reading of the Transfiguration. It looks towards what the Easter message is about-constantly coming to recognise Jesus more and more as we grow in grace to be more like him. I hope you are all looking forward to a time of going deeper in your spiritual life.

Family-wise, we have many lovely times to look forward to this year. We have a wedding in August- the youngest of our three children, Peter. I am about to go to Seattle to celebrate the first birthday of our youngest grandchild, Michael. In January Godfrey and I did some walking in the Eungella National Park west of Mackay. We were ducking in between the heavy downpours of rain and the leeches were out in force! We have never walked so fast trying to keep ahead of them burrowing into our ankles!! I love the bush – it always rejuvenates me. My work hours have grown now to three days a week- I really enjoy it. The natural resource management organisation I work for is doing lots of work in the area of “Reef Rescue” and water quality. Water is such a precious commodity.

I hope you have all had a good time of rest during the holiday season and perhaps time to catch up with family and friends. I love doing that and realise how important it is to make time to get together. All the busyness that fills life can overtake us – and I have to make sure I do not let it overtake my time to keep in touch.

Thank you to all of you for all the time and energy you have given to your work in the department over the last year. I know that at times this is in the midst of many other pressures- illness, family concerns and other anxieties. You all inspire me with your reliance on the grace of God.

Peace and blessing for the Lenten season,

Bronwyn

## Changes

We say goodbye to

Carilyn Kennell,	North Qld
Helen Wilson	Armidale
Judy Bunting	Gippsland
Gail Hardy	Willochra
Mary Eales	The Murray
Judy Price	The Murray ( who took over for a short time after Mary retired until a new P&S coordinator could be found.)

I thank you all on behalf of the P&S department for your faithfulness and commitment to prayer in your own lives and in MU in your diocese. I know some of you have battled with physical difficulties and I am aware that taking on the extra responsibility of leadership is taxing. I value your time.

We welcome to the Prayer & Spirituality team :

Lyn Faulkner	North Qld
Thelma Langshaw	Gippsland
Lettie Allen	Willochra
Ann Gardiner	The Murray
Alice Bowman	Armidale

And look forward to your time with us all.

## C.O.D.E.

By now you would all have your copy of CODE for 2010. Lois always does a fantastic job getting these out to us all. If there are any errors or omissions could you let me know please. It is so helpful to have all of these contact details accurate for the mailing I need to do. A couple of changes I have noticed to date are: Armidale – Alice Bowman’s telephone no and Willochra – Lettie Allen’s telephone no.

## New Resource

I have just completed the writing of a new prayer card “Prayers in times of illness”. This is the MU Australia card for hospital visiting. Supplies of the card at the Publication warehouse were running very low. Elaine has informed me that it will be available through the Publication Department in the next few weeks and will cost around 75 cents to dioceses- so it will sell for about \$1.00 per card. Could you promote this through your diocesan Publication department coordinator please.

## Reporting

I have received some 2009 Annual reports –thank you. There are lots more that need to come. Later in the year I need to send a report to our Australian Secretary in preparation for the Australia Council meeting. Your report does not have to be long. Simply an account of what has been happening for the year – what has worked well and what has been more difficult too. Most diocesan coordinators send the report that they present at the diocesan AGM. Some seem to think that it needs to be a different report but that is certainly not my expectation. I am happy with a phone call and a verbal report if that is a simpler way of your doing it. You are all busy people. I am fully aware

that the level of activities in a small diocese is much lower than that in a large diocese. It is faithfulness to the task that is needed, not necessarily what we would think of as “success” stories. **! would LOVE to be able to report 100% response in reporting from the 23 dioceses around Australia. Let’s see if we can meet that target this year.**

### **Prayer leaflets**

- **Use and distribution of the prayer leaflet**

For some time now the leaflet has been named **MU Prayer Leaflet**. This was a very deliberate renaming to widen out its use and in fact to reflect what was already happening. The order numbers continue to decrease slightly all the time and yet at the same time I suspect that in some areas their use is actually increasing. I am very happy for photocopying to happen when your order numbers do not cover your needs sufficiently. I hear in many dioceses that the leaflet is dispersed much wider than MU. I am so glad. It is handed to patients in hospital, to friends or neighbours or members of the congregation who would value its particular style of prayer and reflection. Some use it as part of not only their private prayer life but also within prayer groups or even select some pieces as part of intercessions within corporate worship. I am always happy to hear of its usefulness in many different situations. This is all part of spreading the word about MU itself. I have heard from many of the Anglican religious communities who now receive it and who are very happy to join us in our praying work.

- **Action in the MU Prayer leaflets**

I was really thrilled to hear various stories of how people had taken up the actions in the prayer leaflets. Individuals have told me of gardening or potting projects they have begun. One group told me of their plan to have a garden corner established at their new church which will be a quiet place for people to sit.

This is all a beginning of the Social Responsibility and the Prayer & Spirituality Departments working together more as the **Prayer and Action Unit**.

### **Prayer Diaries**

I have just sent these out either by email or with the Easter leaflet mailing. Could you copy these and distribute to branches as is your usual way in your diocese.

### **Accounts**

I have to mention to you a gap in my efficiency. I have somehow not sent out the postage accounts for a couple of years. The accounts for the leaflet printing have been sent each year as usual. In the next little while I will send these for the 2008/2009 years. I would be really grateful if you could forward your payments for these as soon as possible. Our national treasurer, Denis Hagan, would be enormously pleased if we could get all of this attended to. Thank you very much for your patience.

### **Lady Day**

I wish you joyful celebrations for Lady Day. It will be lovely to think of us all having copies of *A Worship and Prayer Book for MU Australia* and the resources included there for our Lady Day celebrations.

## Travel

In May this year The Rev'd Libbie Crossman and I as the two coordinators in the Prayer and Action Unit will be heading to Perth and to Bunbury dioceses. In August I will be speaking at the Grafton diocesan conference. I am really looking forward to all of these visits and meeting more of you and getting to know you better. I find that I learn far more than I can ever impart myself and return reinvigorated for the work of MU. I am available for other visits or where possible Libbie and I are happy to be a joint "act"!

## Australia Council 2010

As you would know by now the theme for AC 2010 will be "***Journeying Together***", a continuation of the Relationship theme many have been using in line with MU Worldwide. This picks up the theme for the Provincial Presidents' Meeting in Canterbury in 2010 which our Provincial President Deane Bray attended in 2009.

I have great energy for the Prayer & Spirituality Department as we journey together this year in MU Australia. I pray for you all as you encounter God on the journey.

## Books

I recommend the following to dip into for your Lenten reading or for any time:

### **From the MU Warehouse**

*Through peace comes strength*. Robyn Southerden

An excellent small book of prayers for many occasions

*Living a day at a time* Mary Oakley (ed)

Provides quotations and prayers for an eight day period, for those who face illness or anxiety or any kind of trouble.

### **From Koorong books**

<http://www.koorong.com.au/>

*Rumours of hope* George Hobson

Hardback 96 pages, \$15.95

For George Hobson, priest, photographer and poet life is about faith and about seeing God "in the beauty of his creatures, in the splendour (and the quirkiness) of their forms".

*Songs Of Praise: Lent And Easter Companion*

Hardback 112 pages, \$7.95

*Not A Tame Lion: A Lent Course Based On The Writings Of C. S. Lewis*

Koorong's Price: \$19.95

### **From John Garrett**

<http://www.johngarratt.com.au/>

*Breath of the Soul: Reflections on Prayer*

**ISBN :9781920682057 Author(s):** Joan Chittister, **Publisher :** John Garratt Publishing

This simple little book from a great spiritual giant attends to what we human beings are most inclined to forget; preparing for and engaging in prayer. It is an examination of what we ourselves must bring to the discipline of prayer to make prayer authentic and real a deep and profound part of our lives. **\$19.95**

### Prayers

- Pray regularly for one another using the MU prayer lists. Pray for grace to do the Prayer & Spirituality department work to which you have been called
- The MU leaders in your own diocese as we all begin a year of activities
- Our observance of Lent
- **Prayer for Haiti**  
O God, our refuge and strength,  
we hold before you the nation and people of Haiti,  
and pray for healing in the midst of tragedy and devastation.  
Give comfort to the homeless, the bereaved and the suffering,  
courage to survivors,  
wisdom to those who seek to help,  
and light to all who live in the shadow of death.  
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ,  
our rock and our salvation. **Amen.**  
*Church of England*