



MOTHERS' UNION
DIOCESE OF CYPRUS & THE GULF

Enrolment Service

Admission of Members

Part of the worldwide Mothers' Union,
serving within the Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families



Before the service

Words in bold are said by all.

Directions for movement or posture are printed in italics.

This order may be used in a parish Eucharist, a Service of the Word, or another appropriate act of worship.

This order is prepared for the admission and welcome of members into Mothers' Union Cyprus & The Gulf. It follows a simple, formal layout for congregational use and local adaptation.

ORDER AT A GLANCE

1. Gathering and opening hymn
2. Introduction to Mothers' Union
3. Opening responses and prayer
4. The Admission and the Objects of Mothers' Union
5. Act of commitment and enrolment
6. Welcome of new members
7. Scripture and exhortation
8. The Mothers' Union Prayer
9. Blessing of banner or branch
10. Song and blessing

The Gathering

OPENING HYMN OR SONG

An opening hymn or song may be sung. The minister welcomes the congregation.

INTRODUCTION

To be led by the Bishop, Rector or appointed minister.

Mothers' Union is a worldwide Christian movement founded in 1876 by Mary Sumner in the Church of England. From its beginning, it has called members to Christian responsibility for family life, community care, prayer and practical service.

Mothers' Union Cyprus & The Gulf stands within that worldwide movement. Its members seek to make God's love visible through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships, and through service shaped by the needs of families, parishes and communities across the region.

The members to be enrolled, together with present members of Mothers' Union, stand or come forward.

Opening Responses

- Bishop/Rector** This is the day that the Lord has made.
- All** **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
- Bishop/Rector** O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
- All** **His steadfast love endures for ever.**
- Bishop/Rector** The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him.
- All** **He makes known to them his promises.**
- Bishop/Rector** Praise the Lord, for he is gracious.
- All** **Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.**
- Bishop/Rector** Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts.
- All** **Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Glory be to you, O Lord most high.**

OPENING PRAYER

Bishop/Rector Let us pray.

Almighty God, look with favour upon this branch of Mothers' Union, as the members affirm their commitment to follow Christ and to serve in his name. Give them courage, patience and vision. Strengthen them in their Christian vocation of witness to the world and service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Admission

THE MISSION

Bishop/Rector The mission of Mothers' Union worldwide is to show our Christian faith by the transformation of communities, through prayer, worship and service, and through all that strengthens marriage, family life and those whose lives are met with adversity locally and throughout the world.

The members say together:

Members **We aim to achieve this by carrying out the objects of Mothers' Union.**

THE OBJECTS OF MOTHERS' UNION

1. To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding.
2. To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church.
3. To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service.
4. To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children.
5. To help those whose family life has met with adversity.

The Act of Commitment

Bishop/Rector Membership of the worldwide Mothers' Union is open to all who have been baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity and who support the mission and objects of Mothers' Union. I ask both new and present members to join in affirming their commitment to Mothers' Union.

Bishop/Rector Do you reaffirm your baptism promises?

All **I do, with God's help.**

Bishop/Rector Will you uphold and support the mission and objects of Mothers' Union?

All **I will, with God's help.**

Bishop/Rector Will you continue to nurture your personal relationship with God and be committed to his family, the Church?

All **I will, by the grace of God.**

The minister may invite the new members to step forward by name.

The Enrolment

Bishop/Rector

Name(s):

Bishop/Rector

I admit you to membership of Mothers' Union, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All

Amen.

The Bishop/Rector greets each new member. Membership cards and badges may be presented, assisted by the Diocesan Mothers' Union President or another appointed officer.

THE WELCOME

Bishop/Rector

Members of Mothers' Union, will you welcome, support and pray for one another?

All

We will, in the power of the Holy Spirit. We commit ourselves to the work of Jesus Christ through our membership. We are Christ's hands to the world.

Scripture and Exhortation

SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 10:23-25

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,

not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing,

but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

EXHORTATION

Bishop/Rector As members of Mothers' Union, remember:

Christ has no body but yours,
no hands, no feet on earth but yours.

Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassionately on this world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Yours are the hands with which he blesses the whole world.

The Mothers' Union Prayer

The congregation may stand or remain seated for the prayer.

All **Loving Lord,**

We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.

We pray for families, communities and all people around the world, especially those affected by injustice, poverty and suffering.

Bless the work of Mothers' Union, as we seek to share your love through encouragement, strengthening and support of family and community 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, bringing peace, justice, reconciliation and the restoration of human dignity.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Blessing of Banner or Branch

If a branch or diocesan Mothers' Union banner is present, it may be brought forward.

Bishop/Rector We bless this banner as a sign of the presence and witness of Mothers' Union in this parish. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

Bishop/Rector In the name of God, I commend you to this work and dedicate this branch to the glory of God.

Name of branch: _____

Parish / Diocese: Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf

Bishop/Rector I pledge you our prayers and support in the years ahead.

All **Amen.**

Song and Blessing

SONG BY THE NEW MEMBERS

A song or hymn may be offered by the new members. The new members then return to their seats.

CLOSING PRAYER

Bishop/Rector May God, who has called us into fellowship and service, strengthen Mothers' Union in this place. May Christ guide our hands in compassion, and may the Holy Spirit keep us faithful in prayer, worship and love.

All **Amen.**



Prayer, service and support for family life across the region

Mothers' Union Cyprus & The Gulf

