

Blackpool Deanery

Mothers' Union



Festival Mass

To Celebrate 150 Years of Mothers' Union

And 70 Years of St. Anne's Branch

Friday 25th September 2026

**2:00pm, St. Anne's Parish
Church, Greenlands**

¶ When the Sacristy Bell rings, stand to sing the first hymn

**PRAISE you Lord for all the caring
Love for families all around.
Through the work of Mothers' Union
May the love of Christ be found.
Thanks for all the groups and branches
Joined in fellowship and prayer,
Helping bring relief of suffering
To the world for which Christ cares.**

**Fam'lies who have met with trouble
May we in thy love draw near.
Show the world Christ's living presence
Helping those in doubt and fear.
From a vision of Mary Sumner
Years of dedication led
Mothers' Union and its members
In the name of Christ, its head.**

**Fill, inspire us, keep us growing
Make us what you'd have us be
'til our work for thee is ended,
'til we are in Christ set free.
In the power of thy spirit
Let thy voice through us be heard.
May we go and spread the gospel,
Feeding on thy Holy Word.**

Celebrant: In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

¶ Remain standing as the celebrant introduces the service, and then we say the Prayer of Preparation together:

ALMIGHTY God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ Remain standing as the celebrant introduces the confession (saying sorry to God),

GOD so loved the world that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ to save us from our sins, to be our advocate in heaven, and to bring us to eternal life. Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith, firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with all.

¶ Sit for the confession

MOST merciful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we confess that we have sinned in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be; that we may do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

¶ Remain seated as the celebrant pronounces the Absolution (God's forgiveness of our sins)

ALMIGHTY God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, ✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ Stand to say or sing the Gloria in Excelsis (A Song of God's Glory).

GLORY to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

¶ The celebrant says the Collect (today's special prayer)

Lord, we give thanks for the life of Mary Sumner, for her obedience to your calling, for her vision of the Mothers' Union. We pray that through the grace of your Holy Spirit we may receive new confidence and share that vision. We give thanks and praise for the many people around the world who reach out in the name of the Mothers' Union, through our work may touch the lives of those we meet, that they too may know your love: through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

¶ Sit for the first Bible reading: Ephesians 3. 14-24

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being

rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

¶ Stand for the Gospel Reading: Matthew 5.13-16.

Reader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Reader: Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord

‘You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

‘You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it

under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

¶ Sit for the sermon

¶ Stand to say the Creed (our declaration of faith in Jesus Christ the Son of God)

WE believe in one God: **the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the**

living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection ☩ of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

¶ *Long Service Certificates will be presented by Susan Willoughby our Diocesan President*

¶ *Sit or kneel for the Prayers of Intercession*

As children of a loving God, who always listens to our cries, let us pray to the Father:

Loving and faithful God, we thank you for 150 years of Mothers' Union; for every life touched, for every prayer offered, every act of kindness given in your name. we praise you for the vision of Mary Sumner, and for the countless members who have served you with love, courage and quiet faithfulness throughout the years. You have been our refuge, our strength and our guide in every season.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Lord, we thank you for families strengthened, for the vulnerable protected, for hope restored and for communities renewed. Where there was need, you sent willing hearts. Where there was darkness, you brought light. As we stand at this milestone, we place into your hands with gratitude, and our future into your trust. Renew our calling O God. Refresh our vision. Strengthen us for the days ahead. Help us to walk humbly, love deeply and serve faithfully wherever you lead.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Gracious God, we thank you for leadership of Mothers' Union across the world. We pray for Kathleen, our Worldwide President, for the Worldwide Board of Trustees, and for those who serve at local, diocesan or provincial level; that they may be strengthened with wisdom and compassion. We pray also for the Mothers' Union central charity staff, that they may be filled with energy, insight and resilience. As she prepares to conclude her role, we give you thanks for the faithful leadership and service of Bev, our CEO. May she know the gratitude of our global fellowship and the assurance of your abiding presence.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

Lord of justice and compassion, stir our hearts to continue the work you have set before us. Give us courage to stand with those who suffer gender-based violence, to speak out against modern slavery and to seek justice wherever there is oppression. Help us to challenge injustice, raise awareness and be a people who respect and value all, regardless of background or circumstance.

Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our prayer.

God of peace, we hold before you all who live amid conflict and fear. Bring protection to the vulnerable, comfort to the grieving and hope to those longing for safety. Guide our word leaders to choose paths of justice, mercy and reconciliation. May we continue to be instruments of your peace, bearers of your compassion and witnesses to your love in the world. We commit to the Mothers' Union today, and for generations to come, into your loving care.

Merciful Father,

**All: accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.**

¶ Stand to share the peace

Celebrant: Christ is our peace. He has reconciled us to God in one body by his Cross. We meet in his name and share his peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you,

All: and also with you.

Celebrant: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

We exchange a short greeting in the name of Christ with those around us.

¶ We stand to sing the Offertory Hymn, during which a collection is taken for the work of the Mothers' Union and gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar. Then remain standing for the Eucharistic Prayer (the blessing of bread and wine).

**LORD, for the years your love has kept and
guided,
urged and inspired us, cheered us on our way,
sought us and saved us, pardoned and provided:
Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.**

**Lord, for that word, the word of life which fires us,
speaks to our hearts and sets our souls ablaze,
teaches and trains, rebukes us and inspires us:
Lord of the word, receive Your people's praise.**

**Lord, for our land in this our generation,
spirits oppressed by pleasure, wealth and care:
for young and old, for commonwealth and nation,
Lord of our land, be pleased to hear our prayer.**

**Lord, for our world when we disown and doubt him,
loveless in strength, and comfortless in pain,
hungry and helpless, lost indeed without him:
Lord of the world, we pray that Christ may reign.**

**Lord for ourselves; in living power remake us -
self on the cross and Christ upon the throne,
past put behind us, for the future take us:
Lord of our lives, to live for Christ alone.**

**Celebrant: Blessed are you, Lord, God of creation:
through your goodness we have this bread to set before
you, which earth has given and human hands have
made. It will become for us the bread of life.**

All: Blessed be God forever.

Celebrant: Blessed are you, Lord, God of creation: through your goodness, we have this wine to set before you, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the cup of salvation.

All: Blessed be God forever.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you

All: and also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give thanks and praise.

FATHER, we give you thanks and praise through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your loving Word, through whom you have created all things; who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour. By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh; as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin, he lived on earth and went about among us; he opened wide his arms for us on the cross; he put an end to death by dying for us; and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life; so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we proclaim your great and glorious name, for ever praising you and saying:

HOLY, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

✠ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

¶ Sit as the celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness; grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit, and according to your holy will, these gifts of bread and wine may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread and gave you thanks; he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks; he gave it to them, saying; Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith: Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption. As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

¶ *Remain seated to say the Lord's Prayer*

Celebrant: Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

OUR Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is

the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All: Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.

¶ Remain seated to sing or say the Agnus Dei

LAMB of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, grant us peace.

Celebrant: Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

¶ *All are welcome to receive Communion. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please hold this service book as you come forward.*

¶ *After everyone has received communion, we sing the communion hymn*

**BLEST are the pure in heart,
for they shall see our God;
the secret of the Lord is theirs,
their soul is Christ's abode.**

**The Lord who left the heavens
our life and peace to bring,
to dwell in lowliness with men,
their pattern and their king.**

**Still to the lowly soul
he doth himself impart
and for his dwelling and his throne
chooseth the pure in heart.**

**Lord, we thy presence seek;
may ours this blessing be:
give us a pure and lowly heart,
a temple meet for thee.**

¶ After a period of silence the celebrant leads us in thanksgiving to God. We then join together to say the Prayer after Communion:

ALMIGHTY God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

¶ We say together 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 the 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.

¶ Stand for the blessing

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: and also with you.

Celebrant: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds, in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit rest upon you and remain with you this day and always. **Amen.**

¶ *Remain standing to sing the closing hymn*

**TELL out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord:
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of his word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name:
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has
done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.**

**Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might:
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.**

**Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word:
Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and for evermore.**

The service ends with:

Celebrant: Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
All: In the name of Christ. Amen.

An organ voluntary follows

*Refreshments are served and all are warmly invited to
share in fellowship*