

PRAYERS FOR MARRIAGE WEEK
8TH – 14TH February 2010



This leaflet has been prepared by St. James' Mothers' Union Wetherby based on the Five Objects of the Mothers' Union to celebrate Marriage Week. You are invited to use this as part of your private devotions during the week.

**“Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.”
Ephesians 4:32**

Monday 8th February

Bible Reading: Philippians 2:1-8

Eternal God and Father of us all, we thank you for your creation of marriage. Bless all husbands and wives, may your presence enrich their lives and lead them to do your will. Help them to cherish each other in both good and difficult times and to nurture the friendship which brought them together. Amen

Tuesday 9th February

Bible Reading: Philippians 2:9-16

As Members of the Mothers' Union, we have as our first object “to uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of Marriage and to promote its wider understanding” So in our prayer of thanksgiving:
We thank God for giving us other people to share our lives. For parents and the love which brought us to birth. For mothers who have cherished and nurtured us. For fathers who have loved and supported us. For brothers and sisters with whom we have shared our home. For children entrusted to our care. For other relatives who have been with us in our hopes and our struggles. For all who have spoken to us of the love of Jesus and have drawn us into the family of the Church. We praise you, O Lord, and give you thanks today, help us to live as people who belong to one another and to you. Amen.

Wednesday 10th February

Bible Reading: John 15:9-17

The second object: “As a reminder of our commitment to encourage parents to bring up their children in the life and faith of the Church, we renew the promises made at our baptism and which we have made for our children and godchildren:

Do you believe and trust in God the Father
Who made the world?
I believe and trust in Him.

Do you believe and trust in his Son who
Redeemed the world?
I believe and trust in Him.

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit
Who gives life to the people of God?
I believe and trust in Him.

This is the faith of the Church. This is our faith:
We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit”.

Almighty God, whose Son equips the Church with a variety of gifts, grant that we may use them to bear witness to Christ by lives built on faith and love. Make us ready to live his gospel and eager to do his will that we may share with all your Church in the joys of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Thursday 11th February

Bible Reading: Ephesians 5:1-2,15-21

The Third Object: "The Mothers' Union is a world-wide fellowship united in prayer worship and service. We remind ourselves of the diversity of God's creation, and the very different needs of everyone within the world"

Let us pray that God will help us to be faithful in prayer, worship and service. Holy Spirit of unity and power, we thank you for our fellowship with one another in one Church across the world. Teach us how to pray and serve you, and how to encourage one another. Lead us to see the opportunities you have prepared for us to serve each other. Amen.

Friday 12th February

Bible Reading: Psalm 121

The Fourth Object: "To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children"

God our Father, be near to our children growing up in the uncertainty and confusion of these times. Guard them from the forces of evil at work in our society and lead them in the paths of goodness and truth. Enable parents to give them at all times the security of their love and the help and example of prayer, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Saturday 13th February

Bible Reading: Ephesians 4:25-32

The Fifth Object: "To help those whose family life has met with adversity"

Lord Jesus, who lived in a family at Nazareth, we bring before you all husbands and wives who are unhappy, whose marriages are in danger or have broken down. We pray for you to aid and comfort them and their children, that they may find help and understanding in all their difficulties and sorrows, and the means to rebuild their lives. Amen

Sunday 14th February

Bible Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

O God, our Creator and Father, we thank you for making men and women in your image. We enjoy being with you in worship and we are glad that by your guidance and with your grace we can find delight and enrichment in each other. We pray for boys and girls that they may develop naturally in body, mind and spirit, for teenagers that they will learn to love and respect themselves and each other. We pray that those who are married will go on growing in love and understanding. Where there are difficulties, show them how to overcome them. Where there is failure, assure them of Christian forgiveness and of grace for the future. We pray for those bringing up families alone, may human friendship enrich their lives and service bring them fulfilment, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Bless all homes and families in our community, that husbands and wives may be faithful to their vows and children brought to know and follow you. Give comfort to those who live in broken or divided families and we ask for your blessing on all who work to strengthen marriage and family life. Amen

Blessing

Loving God, from birth to death you hold us in your hand.
Make us strong to bear each others burdens
And humble to share our own
That as one family we may rest in your power
And trust in your love
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen