

## **Mauritius (2024)**

We pray for the Diocesan President, the Community Development Coordinator, Dina Tanner, and all the members in Mauritius.

Mauritius is an island nation in the Indian Ocean, about 1200 miles off the southeast coast of the African continent. Its population is around 1.3 million. Although more developed and prosperous than its neighbour Madagascar, Mauritius does continue to have pockets of poverty and various social issues. Along with other countries it is experiencing various economic difficulties including a loss of international competitiveness, a rise in the trade deficit, further inflation and continued depreciation.

Mauritius is well known as a holiday island and tourism plays a major part in the island's economy. The country became an independent state on 12 March 1968, following the adoption of a new constitution, and became a republic within the Commonwealth in 1992.

Mothers' Union was founded in Mauritius in 1924, and also has a branch on the island of Rodrigues, located 350 miles east of Mauritius, in the middle of the Indian Ocean. Drug and alcohol abuse and domestic violence are among the challenges to family life here that Mothers' Union Mauritius is addressing.

In 2024 Mothers' Union Mauritius will celebrate its centenary. Although its membership in Mauritius is small, at just over 250, members are very engaged in their communities, reaching out to the vulnerable and those in need and working actively across its multicultural population. Projects and activities include: prison ministry, a counselling centre, parenting skills programmes, marriage preparation, care for the elderly, feeding programmes and campaigning against gender based violence.

We thank you Lord for all the dedicated work being carried out by the small number of Mothers' Union members in the Diocese of Mauritius. We pray for the continued success of all their projects and activities and for an increase in their numbers.

**Amen**

*Gill MU/Mauritius 2024*