



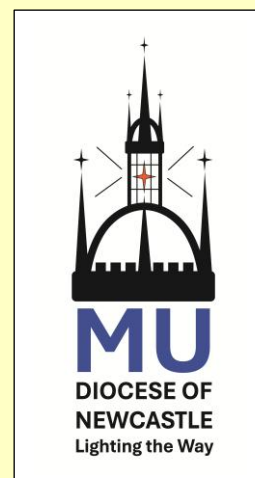
1882-1896 First Bishop of Newcastle

St Nicholas Cathedral shines a new Light



Canon Ernest Wilberforce (a grandson of William Wilberforce) becomes the first Bishop of Newcastle.

Ernest was progressive, friendly and well respected. He and his wife, Emily, were committed to improving the social standing and welfare of women.



The Bishop of Newcastle persuaded Mary Sumner to speak about her vision for a Union of Mothers. He was one of the first Bishops to adopt **Mothers' Union** into local churches.

1885 Mary and the Bishop

At a national Church Congress in Portsmouth, in 1885, a 'Mass Meeting of Women' attracted vast numbers. Public speaking was not then open to women, but Bishop Wilberforce persuaded the very shy and reluctant Mary to tell them about her mothers' meetings and her vision for a **Union of Mothers**.

'Mary spoke with great charm and passion about the vital role of mothers and family life in shaping the future of society.'



'Those who rock the cradle rule the world'

Mary Sumner



Mothers' Union became a new light for family life and communities in urban and rural parishes across the region.



Mrs Emily Wilberforce
Newcastle Diocesan
MU President **1886 -1896**
Central President **1916-1920**.

'Do not be afraid for I am with you.'

Jeremiah 1.8 NIV