

Wonder and Gratitude



Welcome to 2026 - a very significant year for us.

Our Prayer Diary for January calls us to '**Wonder and Gratitude**'.

We may wonder where life is leading us all – and may struggle to feel grateful? We live in challenging times globally, nationally and locally; socially, politically and environmentally. We all face unpredictability and widespread destructive disinformation. MU is by no means alone in facing challenging changes. Nor was Jesus as he faced his ministry.

Mary Sumner also lived in challenging times. She faced them with **gratitude, hope and trust in God**. As the times and tides changed in her day, she never allowed negativity or criticism to hinder progress, always meeting difficulties with a kindly and encouraging approach.

Newcastle was one of the first Dioceses to adopt MU and, 150 years later, it is still one of the most active. We face different challenges today but, like Mary, we can choose to face them constructively with **gratitude, hope and trust in God**. As our plans for this 150th celebration year take shape, our January prayer may serve us well:

God of every moment,

we pause with wonder at the journey behind us,
the grace that carried us,
the lessons that shaped us,
the beauty we didn't expect.

With grateful hearts we look ahead,
trusting that the same love will guide our steps.

Open our eyes to possibility,
our hearts to purpose,
and our lives to your unfolding story.

May we walk forward in faith,
rooted in gratitude and
filled with awe at what is still to come. Amen.

