

We pray for all members in **Mauritius**. (A candle is lit).

Mauritius is known by some as home to the now extinct dodo though it is probably better known today as one of the Indian Ocean's most popular tourist destinations.

Despite being technically part of Africa most of the population are of Indian origin, descendants of those who came over in the mid-to-late 19th century to work on the sugar plantations. Mauritius had no indigenous population before the arrival of the Portuguese in the 16th century. Today it is a vibrant society noted for its British political institutions, French architecture and blend of Indian, Chinese and Creole culture.

Coral reefs almost completely surround the island providing material for the white sand beaches such as at Grand Baie for which Mauritius is so famous and which are one of the islands main tourist attractions. Inland the vegetation is lush and green. Plantations of sugarcane and tea dominate the rolling countryside. The climate of Mauritius is tropical with no dry season, although it is slightly less wet from August to November.

The people of Mauritius are multiethnic, multi-religious, multicultural and multilingual. The island's government is closely modelled on the Westminster parliamentary system, and Mauritius is highly ranked for democracy and for economic and political freedom.

The population of the island is about 1.4 million and there are around 250 MU members. Founded here in 1924, Mothers' Union works actively in society across its multicultural population. It plays an active role in the Church with many members choosing to be deacons, lay readers, counselors, facilitators of Alpha courses and more.

Through both national and local initiatives, MU members in Mauritius continue to support and encourage families – especially those facing adversity. Some branches offer meals to needy families across ethnic and racial boundaries.

Members are motivated to support their communities by visiting old peoples homes, children's shelters, families in need, those who are sick and prisoners and their families. Members provide individual counseling, praying for families concerned and supporting them.

*We thank you Lord for all the good work being carried out by Mothers' Union members in the Diocese of Mauritius. We pray that all they do and all that they plan will contribute to the well being of everyone in those islands.*

**Amen**