

Mauritius (2026)

We pray for the Diocesan President and all the members in Mauritius.
(A candle is lit)

Mauritius is known as a dream holiday island. It has a coastline of 205 miles and is a volcanic island, generally sheltered by barriers of coral reefs forming natural, safe, crystal clear lagoons. The temperature in the coastal areas varies between 22C in winter and 34C in summer with sea temperatures between 22C and 27C.

It lies about 1200 miles off the southeast coast of the African continent and has a population of just under 1.3 million. Although more developed and prosperous than its neighbour Madagascar, Mauritius does continue to have pockets of poverty and various social issues. The economy is based in four sectors – textiles, tourism, sugar and services.

Mauritius was known to Arabs as early as the 10th century but officially discovered in 1505 by the Portuguese. It was occupied by the Dutch from the 1598 to 1712, then the French from 1715 to 1810. It was ceded to Great Britain in 1814 by the Treaty of Paris, became independent in 1968 and made a Republic in 1992. In 1965 the Mauritian Chagos Islands, including Diego Garcia, were separated from Mauritius as part of the newly formed British Indian Ocean Territory. The islanders moved from Diego Garcia to Mauritius, the Seychelles and Great Britain, the last of them leaving in 1970. The island has since been developed as a strategic military facility with around 4,000 military personnel. This situation has been in dispute since the late 1990's when former islanders sued for the right to return home, the dispute passing through the various courts ever since. A tentative agreement to resolve the dispute was announced in 2024 and a treaty transferring sovereignty to Mauritius signed in 2025. Currently this awaits the passing of primary and secondary legislation.

Mauritius is a blend of diverse cultures and religions. The population consists of Hindus, Creole, Chinese, Muslims and Europeans. Most people are bilingual and are equally fluent in English and French. Creole and French are the main languages in the everyday environment and several oriental languages are also spoken. Health care is good and free public medical facilities are widely available.

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 abuse, alcohol abuse and domestic violence are among the challenges to family life here that Mothers' Union Mauritius is addressing.

In 2024 Mothers' Union Mauritius celebrated 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 2026