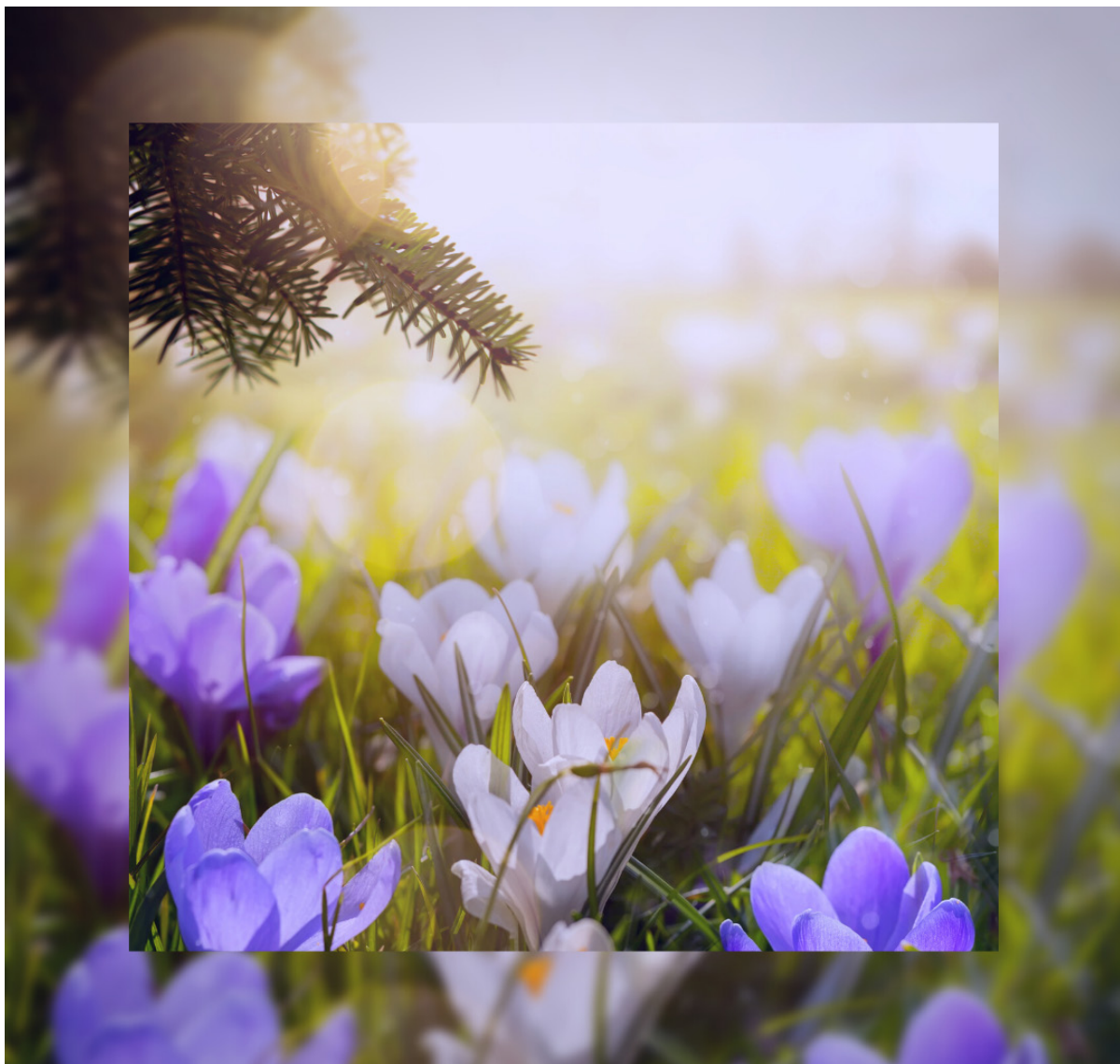


# I N F O R M

*Catholic Women's League Archdiocese of Sydney  
April/May 2022*



## *PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE*

Greetings ladies,

A happy belated mother's day. Hope you have not developed webbed feet due to all the rain. Thank goodness covid restrictions have been lifted to a degree. It was comforting to be able to attend Mass especially during the Easter season.

Father Terry Bell was our April guest speaker and gave an inspiring talk on Pope Francis' Easter message. Father also explained the 3rd rite of reconciliation which dates back to the early church.

As many of you know Marian Court has been sold to the Trustees of Catholic Aged Care – Sydney. Lack of finance and retirement village rules and regulations made it impossible for CWL to continue to operate Marian Court. The Marian Court name is to be maintained, Anthony Watts to remain as manager, and Harry and Maria are re-employed.

Our Scholarship to Delany College has been gifted to twin girls Galia and Charbella and was much appreciated by their family.

Congratulations to Summer Hill branch on the success of their fashion parade. Garments were purchased and lunch was enjoyed by those present.

Sandra and I travelled to Lithgow by various means of transport to attend the state council meeting in March. All dioceses were represented except Lismore. It was great to meet up with the members. Pat Akon OBE and a few Lithgow ladies were welcomed and treated to afternoon tea followed by Mass with Father Greg.

We continue to pray for Ukraine and are hoping to make contact with the Ukrainian community to be able to offer assistance where appropriate.

We hope to see many more branch members at the June meeting where we will be entertained by the 'Wivenhoe Quartet' from Cobbitty.

Our sick members and those who have lost loved ones in the last month are constantly in our prayers.

May our Blessed Mother Mary intercede and protect us during this month of May.

Margaret Blomfield  
President

## ANZAC DAY

On Anzac Day, we remember all those Australian men and women, who have suffered and died in the great tragedy of war.

One hundred and seven years ago, on 25th. April 1915, troops of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula and the ANZAC legend was born.

Those young Anzacs, provided later generations of Australian servicemen and women, with a lasting example of courage, endurance and mateship, as they served on land, sea and in the air, in many places throughout the world,

On Anzac Day, we honour the memory of all those soldiers, sailors and airmen who died or were injured, in this country's service. We remember those who suffered as Prisoners of War and those whose lives were shortened or forever adversely affected.

We pray for all currently serving members of our Armed Services, especially those deployed in dangerous and hazardous places overseas and for those engaged in peace keeping and humanitarian work around the world. Their sacrifices have enabled us, the Australian community, to continue to live in freedom and hope.

We and all who come after, have an obligation to ensure that the freedom so dearly won and the peace we now enjoy, is cherished and not lost through our indifference.

May we all prove worthy of their sacrifices and continue to respect and honour the Anzac legacy.

Jay Turner  
Concord West

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE AUSTRALIA INC.**  
**Installation Mass held at Mary, Help of Christians, Sawtell, NSW**  
**Theme: 'Be joyful in hope, patient in trouble and persistent in prayer.'**  
**Romans 12:12.**

The Executive Committee of CWLA Inc. was introduced, presented with their badges, and Blessed by Father Michael Alcock during Mass at Mary, Help of Christians, Sawtell on Wednesday, 23rd March, 2022.

**National Exec. Committee Members:-**

**President: Ann Pereira**

**Vice Presidents: Catherine McGrath & Jacqueline Kemp**

**Secretary: Sally Fennell**

**Treasurer: Pauline O'Malley**

**Bioethics Convenor: Deirdre Little**

**Social Issues Convenor: Cathy Hammond**

**International Secretary: Clara Geoghegan**

Apologies from Cathy Hammond and Clara Geoghegan who were unable to attend.

Michele Pedersen, CWLA NSW President, was also in attendance as were CWL ladies from Bellingen, Grafton, Port Macquarie and Wauchope.

Ann Pereira reciprocated by presenting Father Michael with a badge in honour of his position as National Chaplain for CWLA Inc. Father Michael's dog, Zippy, attended Mass, and it was thought that Zippy should have a badge, or medal, as well.

Father Michael presented Ann Pereira with a candle as a reminder of the spirit of Christ, our Lord working through Catholic Women's League.

Sister Fidelis provided the Music, supported by the Sawtell Parish Choir, in the singing of hymns; 'City of God,' 'Here I am Lord,' and the Recessional Hymn, 'Mary, Help of Christians;' a Hymn written especially for the Parish of Sawtell.

A lovely lunch followed, which was catered for by the ladies of the Parish. Sandwiches with many varieties of fillings, cheese, fruit, cakes and slices in abundance. We enjoyed a relaxing time in fellowship together.

It was a privilege to attend the Installation Mass of CWLA Inc. Executive Committee, and to be given the opportunity to get to know them better. It was encouraging to see such a dedicated and harmonious group of ladies working together for the benefit of Catholic Women's LEAGUE. May God Bless them in their endeavours.

Report by Tex Quirk Hon. Treasurer CWL Sydney & Sally Fennell CWL National Secretary

# CWL St Patrick's Day Celebrations





# April Branch Day

# FROM THE CHAPLAIN

---

The incessant rain and cloudy grey skies certainly reminds me of my years studying in England. Perhaps such weather is in concurrence with the sombre and sad events that currently envelop our world – from the horrors of war in Ukraine (and elsewhere), to the tragic displacement of millions of refugees, to the ongoing uncertainty that remains as we, please God, emerge from the Covid-pandemic. As we look around at our world, we can easily become disheartened and discouraged. But it is in such times that our faith becomes an invaluable source of hope and perspective.

On this point, the English weather also reminds me of an inspiring and encouraging lady who gave me “new” hope and perspective. Agatha, a single mother of two, was entirely blind. But come rain, hail, or shine she would attend Mass every day in a parish in central London. You knew she had arrived when you would hear her cane hit the first sanctuary step of the sanctuary; a sign to her that she had come to the front of the church and knew to take her seat to the right of the altar.

After Mass one day, I asked Agatha who was bringing her to Mass. She replied, “Father I walk by myself!” “You walk? But where is your home?” I asked. “Twenty minutes away”, she said.

I thought to myself, “How on earth was she able to walk through busy central London without incident or accident?” Intrigued, I asked Agatha if I could accompany her on her walk home.





It is too hard to describe here the incredible system of step-counting and sounds that were involved in this process. All I can say is that I was left dumbfounded.

On the way, I asked Agatha whether she had always been blind. She explained to me that, actually, she only went blind in her early-twenties.

Agatha had just sat her final exam at the University of Kampala in Uganda to become a medical doctor. But just as she was leaving to celebrate her achievement, a bomb went off which rendered her completely blind.



It's a shocking thought that stopped me in my tracks. Imagine having spent all those years studying, only to have the profession of your dreams taken from you in a single moment. And, yet, what drew me to Agatha from the moment I had met her was her infectious - joy filled - smile. How could she be so happy?

I lamented to her how hard that must have been. But she replied, "Yes, Father. It was hard at the time. But, in the end, I realised that all that matters is that I know the way to heaven."

Agatha later won a scholarship to study Economics at a prestigious University in London. The first thing she did, however, was teach herself how to walk to daily Mass.

In these cloudy and turbulent times, need I say anymore?



## **CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE STATE COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT LITHGOW 20.3.22 AND 21.3.22**

20 in attendance.

Meeting opened with CWL prayers and prayers for Ukraine.

The first part of the Sunday session was the AGM followed by the council meeting.

The diocesan president's reports had already been distributed via email prior to the meeting so any additional matter was delivered by the presidents in attendance. Margaret Blomfield updated the council regarding the Marian Court situation which led to much discussion over morning tea and lunch.

Jo Clarke, Wollongong diocese, reported that she would arrange a meeting with a group of Catholic Ukrainian women in the area.

The Lithgow ladies joined us as observers, it was lovely to see them.

Father Greg arrived midafternoon in plenty of time to celebrate Mass for us at 5.00pm and to have dinner with us that evening.

Monday morning Father Greg was with us and gave us a wonderful reflection via a story about a lady parishioner he knew in London. The lady was blind but had not been blind from birth. She was a doctor working overseas, I've just forgotten where, but a bomb caused her blindness amongst other injuries. She walked to Mass every day, about a 20-minute walk, she counted the steps and knew where and when to turn and to cross. Father Greg walked home with her one day after Mass, she invited him in and made him tea and told her story. Most inspiring.

Doctor Diedre Little spoke about the euthanasia bill and pointed out that no mental health assessment is required, which mitigates against informed decision. Two doctors are required to sign off of this following a request from the GP but those two doctors are not required to see or know the patient and after the death it is not reported to the coroner.

Two motions were put forward for discussion and voting. Both were passed unanimously.

A travel account of \$5000.00 to be established.

A donation of \$2000.00 be given to the CWL Lismore for them to distribute as they see the needs of the community throughout the diocese.

The archives that are presently stored at Marian Court need to be out by April of this year 2022. Michelle to liaise with Monica Doumit.

The next state council meeting to be held Sunday and Monday 11th and 12th September 2022. Wollongong to host.



A donation of \$2000.00 be given to the CWL Lismore for them to distribute as they see the needs of the community throughout the diocese.

The archives that are presently stored at Marian Court need to be out by April of this year 2022. Michelle to liaise with Monica Doumit.

The next state council meeting to be held Sunday and Monday 11th and 12th September  
State conference to be held no later than September 2023.

State council meeting March 2023, possibly at Tamworth.

National AGM 25th May 2022 via zoom.

2nd state delegate to attend national meeting + 2 alternate delegate. Ruth Robinson to be 2nd delegate, voted unan.

2 alternate delegates - Ann Kelly and Sandra Skarsky. voted unan.

A presentation of a gift and cake for Michelle Pedersen celebrating her 60th birthday the following day 22.3.22.

Some valuable words on housekeeping from Margo.

Meeting closed 11:40 with prayers.

Report by Sandra Skarsky Secretary

## Ryde/Gladesville Branch News



Our end of year 2021 finished well, we celebrated Christmas at The Ryde X Club CWL Christmas Lunch, Monday 29th November, 2021, at Ryde X Club.

Thirteen of our 17 members attended, our two ninety 93 year olds were unable to come and two 70's were working. We had a great time, played our favourite game, everyone bought a present valued under \$10 to be put on the table, we swapped until everyone still had a wrapped present in front of them, then we kept what we ended up with. Maybe a bit complicated to explain but there was a lot of squeezing, smelling and bending of our Xmas gift parcels. The meal was great! A good time was had by all.

Our New Year started with Maureen and I planning to come into Polding House on 8th February, on ringing up to book found that it had been cancelled.

So our first meeting at the Ryde Parish hall was booked for Monday 28th February.

We were looking forward to St Patrick's day lunch at Polding House, booked three of us in for lunch, news on TV of flooding everywhere, unless travel was urgent to stay at home. It was teaming down in Ryde at 8am our husbands were insisting it was too dangerous to bus into the city. So we had to cancel.

Our next CWL meeting is Monday 28th March, and we were hoping to have a Fashion Parade in September maybe 17th we have to check the Hall booking first.

If it's a go! We hope to see all you ladies there, I know Summer Hill Branch has beat us to it, but that's a Winter range, we hope to have Spring/Summer.

Beth Kosnik, Ryde Gladesville Branch

## **Summer Hill CWL 2022 Autumn Fashion Parade**

**On 23 April Summer Hill CWL welcomed around 80 women, and a few men, to a fashion parade delayed by 2 years due to COVID-19. Guests were welcomed to St Patrick's Parish by Fr Gerard Woo Ling, recently appointed Parish Administrator. We were thrilled that Michelle Pedersen, President, Catholic Women's League Australia – New South Wales Inc. was able to join us and provide our guests with an overview of CWL and the important work we do.**

**Our guests included CWL members from Peakhurst and Concord West Branches as well as visitors from Marion Court Units in Strathfield. We also welcomed neighbours from Cardinal Freeman Village, St Vincent's Parish Ashfield and Ashfield Probus as well as family and friends of Summer Hill CWL.**



**Summer Hill CWL members and friends cooked up a storm and our guests enjoyed a lunch of freshly made sandwiches, homemade hot treats and a variety of homemade cakes and slices, accompanied by a selection of wines. After lunch we were treated to a parade of great fashions provided by Stafford Fashions and beautifully modelled by friends of Summer Hill CWL. After the parade our guests had the opportunity to purchase items and Stafford Fashions donated 10% of sales to support our fundraising.**

**Funds raised from the parade will be donated to the Sydney Diocese CWL 2021/22 Project of the Year, the Order of Malta, NSW Branch: Community Care Van – Female Hygiene Packs for the Homeless.**

**Jean Burns  
Secretary  
Summer Hill CWL**

# SUMMER HILL FASHION PARADE







# BRANCH NEWS AND DIARY DATES

---



## *Scam alert!*

Scam warning:

Recently there has been an uptake in phone and online scams.

One of our members was scammed quite convincingly over the phone just last week. They told her that they were from 'telecom security' and that her accounts were 'threatened' and that they had to open an 'encrypted account' for her safety.

They were very professional and it all sounded very plausible. So please be careful when answering your phone, do not give out any details and just hang up. If it's important they will call back. Please speak with your families, your banks, phone companies or contact the office if you're unsure.

### *Upcoming Events*

June Branch Meeting -  
7/6/22 10:30am with guest  
entertainment 'The  
Wivenhoe Quartet'

Reminder: Branches are  
to submit their Project of  
the Year suggestions by  
June 7th.

# BRANCH NEWS AND DIARY DATES

---

## *Reminders*

We love hearing about the happenings of our Branches. If your branch has an upcoming event or any exciting news to share, please let us know!

## *For More Information*

[cwlsydney@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:cwlsydney@sydneycatholic.org)

(02) 9307 8383

Office hours: Tuesday- Thursday  
8:30am- 4:00pm

- 
- **July Branch Day with Guest Speaker Rebecca McCabe. 13th July 2022. More information to come.**
  - **Catholic Women's League Sydney has donated \$1000.00 towards the Bishop of Lismore's Flood Appeal.**

*Become a Member of Catholic Women's  
League  
Archdiocese of Sydney Today!*

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Cost: \$35 for Branch Members, \$40 for Diocesan Members

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

HOME PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

MOBILE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

I'm joining \_\_\_\_\_ branch

OR

I'm joining as a Diocesan member

I am willing to receive information by email: YES/NO

Please return with remittance of \$35 or \$40 to:

Catholic Women's League Archdiocese of Sydney  
133 Liverpool St, Sydney 2000

Ph: 9307 8383

Email: [cwlsydney@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:cwlsydney@sydneycatholic.org)

*Thank you!*

*If you have news from your branch, upcoming events, or interesting articles you'd like to share, please let us know - [cwlsydney@sydneycatholic.org](mailto:cwlsydney@sydneycatholic.org)*