

I N F O R M

*Catholic Women's League Archdiocese of Sydney
February/March 2022*

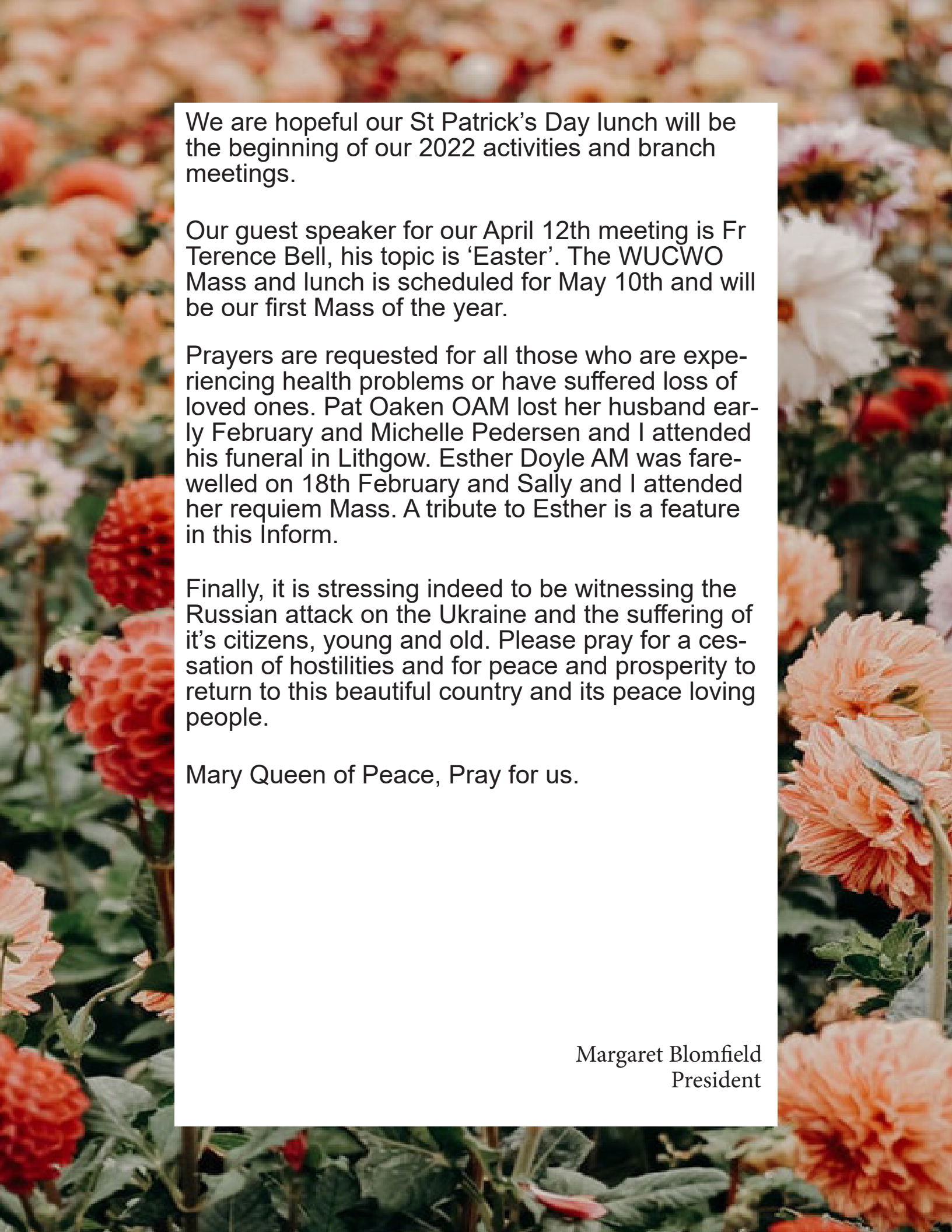


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We were disappointed our opening Mass and guest speaker had to be cancelled due to the COVID restrictions. Christmas was not what we had looked forward to, again because of the virus. Thankfully we are slowly getting back to some normality with the lifting of restrictions. Let us pray we have seen the last of them.

The first Council meeting of the year was held on 8th February. Monica Doumit was welcomed as a full councillor, and Pat Castellan as an observer councillor. A letter of gratitude from the Order of Malta was read acknowledging \$9,000.00 remitted to them and assuring us these funds would be used to support their Community Vans. A letter was also tabled from Delany College at Granville expressing grateful thanks for the scholarship donation by CWL Sydney and we look forward to receiving updates on the progress of the chosen pupil.

Our prayers are with the people of Tonga as they recover from the devastation of the volcanic eruption. A big thank you to Enfield Parish and the CWL Branch for a donation of \$500.00 to the Tongan Appeal. CWL Sydney has also donated \$1000.00 to that Appeal. An extract from an article by the Royal Niece of King Tupou VI, courtesy of Sr. Fehi LCM, is featured in this issue of Inform.



We are hopeful our St Patrick's Day lunch will be the beginning of our 2022 activities and branch meetings.

Our guest speaker for our April 12th meeting is Fr Terence Bell, his topic is 'Easter'. The WUCWO Mass and lunch is scheduled for May 10th and will be our first Mass of the year.

Prayers are requested for all those who are experiencing health problems or have suffered loss of loved ones. Pat Oaken OAM lost her husband early February and Michelle Pedersen and I attended his funeral in Lithgow. Esther Doyle AM was farewelled on 18th February and Sally and I attended her requiem Mass. A tribute to Esther is a feature in this Inform.

Finally, it is stressing indeed to be witnessing the Russian attack on the Ukraine and the suffering of it's citizens, young and old. Please pray for a cessation of hostilities and for peace and prosperity to return to this beautiful country and its peace loving people.

Mary Queen of Peace, Pray for us.

Margaret Blomfield
President

Reflective Story by the Royal Niece of the King Tupou VI

All praise and glory to the Highest and Most Holy; our Heavenly Father for seeing Tonga through the volcanic eruption which not only shook heaven and earth but shook the very core of everyone who was here in the Tonga Kingdom that day.

In the rush to evacuate with my parents to a villa built by his late Majesty King George V, located on the highest point near town, I was separated from my children (who I later confirmed were safe at home). The power all over Tonga was out but while I was sitting in the villa dining room I looked outside and saw a stream of vehicle headlights coming up the villa driveway. Their majesties had kept the gates open for anyone seeking refuge and the entire estate became parked in from back to front. Families gathered on the porch were welcomed. The children and elderly into the dining room; the look of relief as grandmothers closed their eyes sitting on soft seats brought us all comfort.

The air was thick with dust and sulphur. The volcanic ash settled into every crevice of our lives and we still sleep in fear of another eruption. Yet through the ash, panic and chaos, I saw hope. People and children were coughing, while mothers patted their children's backs to comfort them. As we sat there waiting for any news, an army truck arrived with bottled drinking water. Her majesty excused herself as she saw to the distribution of the water, starting with those sitting outside who looked up then took a second look to confirm it was her majesty the Queen standing before them.

Before leaving their home, my father had grabbed his radio and he would turn it on from time to time so we could listen for any news of the volcano. We all had a mixture of feelings until mother turned to us and reminded us of the wisdom of His Late Majesty King George V, as he had built the villa for just such a reason as this. We all agreed his foresight had been a great comfort to the many people who sheltered there with us.

Suddenly my cousin Laite walked in and told me the ash rain had eased up and a police van was able to take me home. The road was dark and the island was completely still with uncertainty lingering in the air. We turned into my home and relief washed over me as I saw candle light and I rushed inside to greet my sister and husband, while all three of my children ran towards me. I knelt down and embraced them all at once. This was all the sustenance I needed. With my daughter and sons safely in my arms I was ready for the sun to rise and help light the way to the kingdom's recovery.

SOMEONE ONCE SAID: WHAT GOES AROUND, COMES AROUND

One day a poor Scottish farmer, whose name was Fleming, heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He ran to help and found a terrified boy, mirred to his waist in black mud, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's meagre farm and an elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved. "I want to repay you for saving my son's life" said the nobleman, but the farmer waved the offer aside and refused to accept payment.

At that moment the farmer's son came to the door of the family farmhouse and the nobleman declared "Let me provide your son with the level of education my own son will enjoy. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll grow to be a man we'll both be proud of."

Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best schools and in time graduated from St. Mary's Hospital Medical School in London. He went on to become known throughout the world, as Sir Alexander Fleming, the man who discovered Penicillin. Years later the nobleman's son, who was saved from the bog, was stricken with pneumonia and Penicillin saved his life.

The nobleman was Lord Randolph Churchill and Sir Winston Churchill was his son.

Jay Turner - Concord West

Marian Court Units – returning to “normal”!

After the chaos and hardship that the last two years have thrown our way, it was really good to at last return to something close to what used to be called “Normal”!

At Marian Court we have traditionally had a lunch on the second Wednesday of each month to celebrate those residents that had birthdays that month. The lunch has been in the form of a plated hot meal such as roast chicken or pork or roast beef, followed by a slice of Birthday cake. However, with Covid these activities were severely curtailed. This month we reinstated the hot lunch served in Marian House. To keep us safe the meal was a boxed meal, so no serving or queuing and we sat very socially distanced.

This month we were pleased to be able to include in birthday celebrants Father Reg of St Martha’s Parish, who officiates at Marian Court regularly.

Submitted by Anthony Watts



Residents Kay, and Sr Elly either side of Father Reg, cutting the Birthday cake.

*In Loving Memory of
Esther Doyle AM*



9/1/1926 - 10/1/2022

Esther Doyle passed away peacefully January 2022. Esther was much loved by her family and many friends. Esther was a doyenne of Catholic Womens League. From her leadership roles in Sydney Archdiocese (1972-79), CWLA-NSW (1981-86) and National President CWLA (1988-1990)

Esther never wavered from her convictions, she was dedicated, committed and selfless. She paved the way for the women of CWL from State to National level to be recognised and applauded for their many charitable actions.

As well as her charitable work, Esther worked tirelessly to lobby parliamentary figures on various bills before Parliament and presented submissions particularly when the issues related to women and families.

Esther's clear directive regarding social justice is another indication of her great compassion for those in need, chairing the CWL Sydney Social Responsibilities Committee for many years.

Esther was a trailblazer who recognised the value of women's talents and encouraged women, me included, to play a role in promoting Catholic Women's League.

She had great insight into what could be achieved through believing in the foundation of fairness and justice for those whose support was fundamental to the ethos of CWL.

Throughout all Esther's CWL involvement Marian Court was her pride and joy. It was through Esther's financial expertise in the 80's /90's that the finances of CWL Sydney flourished, and these efforts added to the success of Marian Court.

Marian Court is where she and husband Jim retired and following Jim's death Esther continued to be a figurehead at the Court.

What I and many others learned from Esther over the years has allowed me to walk a path with the members of CWL maintaining a clear perspective that we are Women of Faith, Women of Community and Women of the Church

Adieu dear Esther
Moya Potts AM DSG

In Loving Memory of Marie Brady



Remembering our beloved Marie who answered to our Good Lord's call last December.

Marie has been my inspiration since I joined Enfield branch as an active member. She was such a gentle person and she always wore a smile. I used to go with her to the ACW gatherings.

I was able to visit Marie in previous years and had enjoyed chats with her. She was very knowledgeable.

Marie was a patient listener and a great advisor to me. She was approachable. I only learned from Marie's Eulogy that she used to be a teacher and a proficient pianist.

On chatting with Marlene Wallace I found out that Marie was a musical director of St Therese's Club In Lakemba.

Marie was a very humble person and we all miss her very much.

by Annie Wong



Lenten Prayer for Spiritual Renewal

God, heavenly Father, look upon me and hear my prayer during this holy Season of Lent. By the good works You inspire, help me to discipline my body and to be renewed in spirit.

Without You I can do nothing. By Your Spirit help me to know what is right and to be eager in doing Your will. Teach me to find new life through penance. Keep me from sin, and help me live by Your commandment of love. May my acts of penance bring me Your forgiveness, open my heart to Your love, and prepare me for the coming feast of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Lord, during this Lenten Season, nourish me with Your Word of life and make me one with You in love and prayer. Fill my heart with Your love and keep me faithful to the Gospel of Christ. Give me the grace to rise above my human weakness. Give me new life by Your Sacraments, especially the Mass.

Father of love, source of all blessings, help me to pass from my old life of sin to the new life of grace. Prepare me for the glory of Your Kingdom. I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.

Amen



Isaiah 55:10-11
Psalm 33
Matthew 6:7-15

Tuesday 8 March 2022

1st Week of Lent

When Jesus prayed, he wasn't talking to a removed deity - He was talking to a loving Father. Jesus tried to impress this on his disciples. His prayer begins with, "Father". Everything in Jesus' public ministry underlines this relationship. His teachings contain the same message: God is Father, we are his children.

For some, accepting this truth will be easier than for others. "Father" calls to mind memories of a strong, consistent, trusted friend - one we could turn to with our needs and our problems. But some people never had that kind of a father. In that case, try and imagine the kind of father you always wanted, and then know that we have that kind of Father in Heaven. God is loving and kind, and knows our every need. God's concern is our highest good.

if we can come to know this relationship, our prayer will take on a different meaning.

It follows then, that if God is our Father, we are all brothers and sisters. This means that our prayer can never be an exercise in selfishness. the whole family must be included in prayer. Jesus always uses plurals: "*give us this day*" ... "*Forgive us our sins, as we forgive all who wrong us.*" Prayer always involves a social dimension.

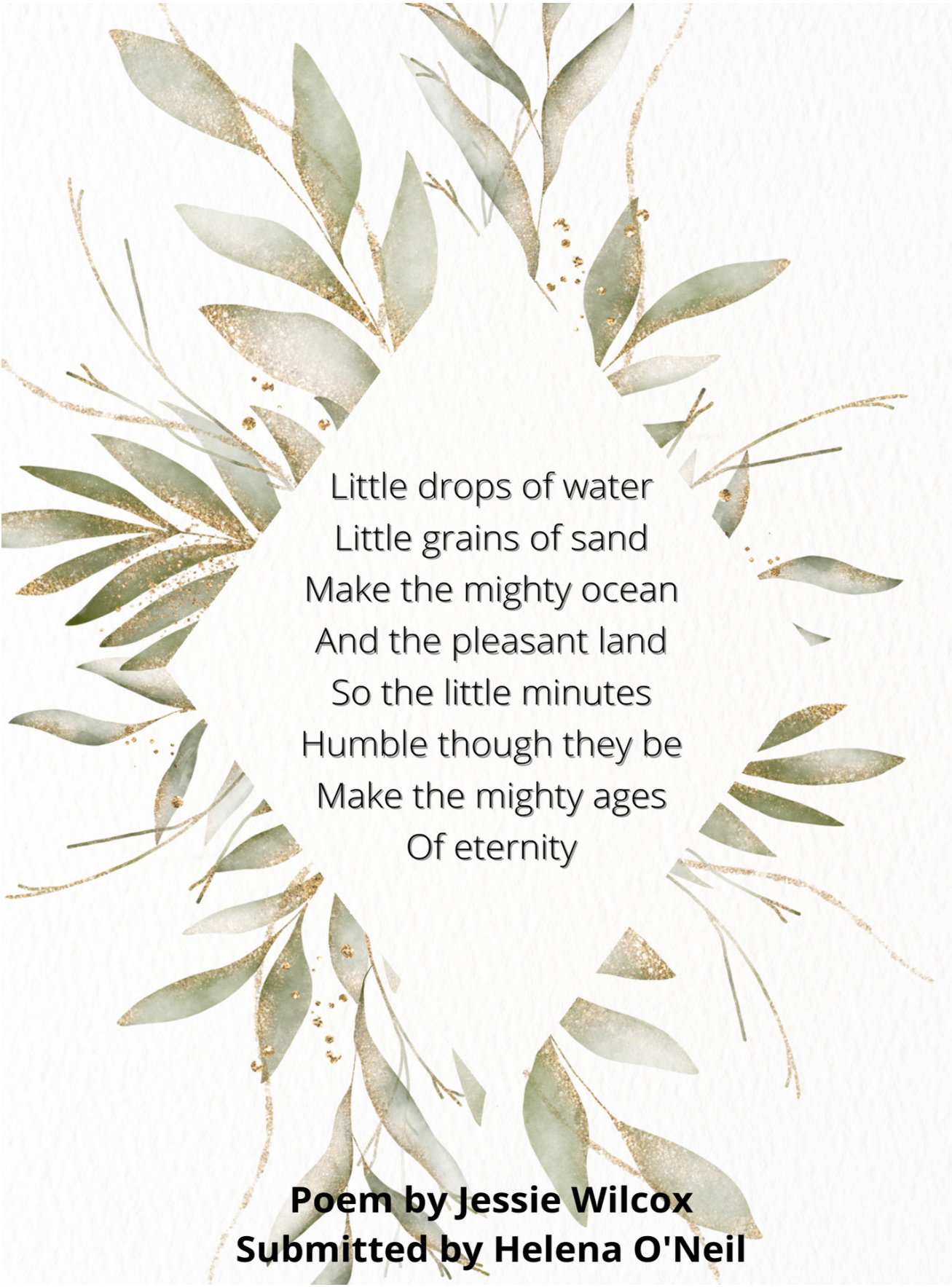
Jesus tells the disciples to keep on asking, keep on seeking. So, we cannot just pray once and wait for the results. The things we really desire, we need to seek with all our heart. Prayer is never a substitute for effort. And prayer needs to be submissive. We don't pray to impose our will on God. In the garden on the night before he died, Jesus prayed until he sweat drops of blood, and ended his prayer with: "not my will, but yours be done" (Lk 22:42)

Lord teach us to pray. Amen.

by Fr Sean Cullen

Taken from the DOW 'Remember' Lenten Program

2022



Little drops of water
Little grains of sand
Make the mighty ocean
And the pleasant land
So the little minutes
Humble though they be
Make the mighty ages
Of eternity

**Poem by Jessie Wilcox
Submitted by Helena O'Neil**

Prayer for International Women's Day

Lord, make me an instrument of peace:
Bless all women who daily strive to bring peace to their communities, their homes and their hearts. Give them strength to continue to turn swords into ploughshares.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love:
We pray for all women who face prejudice, inequality and gender disparities. Help us see and to face the discrimination against women in all the many forms it may take.

Where there is injury, pardon:
Comfort all women who suffer from the pain of war, violence, and abuse. Help them to become instruments of their own reconciliation and peace.

Where there is division, unity:
Forgive all women and men who let differences breed hate and discrimination. Let your example of valuing all of creation help us to see that we are equal partners in the stewardship of your world.

Where there is darkness, light; where there is untruth, truth:

Comfort all women who struggle in the darkness of abuse, poverty, and loneliness. May we stand with them in light to acknowledge their suffering and strive to remove the burdens of shame or embarrassment.

Where there is doubt, true faith:
We pray for all women who live in fear of their husbands, fathers, and forces that control their lives. Help them to be empowered to be their true selves through your everlasting love and faith.

BRANCH NEWS AND DIARY DATES



Membership fees

Our mighty Treasurer has kindly requested to send in your fees. If you cannot post a cheque you can send it via direct deposit to:
BSB 062784 A/c 100012612. Reference should be your surname. Please email or call to confirm your deposit or if you have any questions or troubles.

Upcoming Events

April Branch Meeting -
12/4/22 10:30am with
guest speaker Fr Terence
Bell from Dalton Gardens.

Apologies:

Drummoyne Branch were not mentioned in our thank you's in the last Inform due to some banking difficulties. Thank you again to the Drummoyne Branch for their generous donation.

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
(02) 9307 8383
Office hours: Tuesday- Thursday
8:30am- 4:00pm

BRANCH NEWS AND DIARY DATES

Upcoming Branch Events

Summer Hill branch is holding an Autumn Fashion Parade on Saturday 23rd April. \$20 will give you lunch, wine and a parade (Stafford Fashions). There will be a raffle. Anne will send in some fliers for March meeting. Limited numbers.

Save the date: WUCWO Mass

CWL Sydney will be hosting the WUCWO Mass and lunch 10th May 2022.

10:30am Level 6 Chapel

Lunch to follow on Level 8

Cost: \$30.00pp

RSVP necessary as catering will be provided.

*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

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