

I N F O R M

*Catholic Women's League Archdiocese of Sydney
June/July 2022*



VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Ladies,

In Margaret's absence I am writing this month's message to you. I hope you are coping with the rain, wind and cold on top of COVID.

If you missed our June meeting I am sorry because we were entertained by the "Wivenhoe Quartet" from Cobbitty and I mean ENTERTAINED! A very happy treat for us all we hope they will give us an encore at a future meeting. Thank you Sandra for organising.

On June 9, Michelle Pederson and I attended the Exhibition of Ukranian Culture "Vyshvanka" at Sydney Town Hall hosted by the Ukranian Women's Association. The array of folk embroidery, traditional fancywork, clothes etc. was not only beautiful but educational as well depicting the many varied patterns representing the different areas of the country. We were entertained with folk music and young girls dancing in national costumes. The Consul's daughter gave a talk on behalf of her father as he was unable to attend due to work commitments.

On June 19, we carried our CWL banner in the annual Walk With Christ procession which was a great success with approximately twice the number walking as 3 years ago in the previous walk the last ones having to be cancelled due to COVID. Our banner was captured with many others in the Catholic Weekly photo.

On June 22, Sally and I attended the Pan Pacific and South East Asia Women's Association of Australia NSW Group's Winter Luncheon. The Guest Speaker was Rabbi Mendel Kastel who

spoke on Homelessness and how he had come to work with the homeless. He had the idea of "Safe House Party" that resonated with Police who have instituted the policy where young people register their party with Police so hundreds of people don't turn up. He said that homelessness can take many forms being kids who can't live at home, older women, couch surfing (living on other people's couches), women escaping domestic violence, people living in their cars, people leaving prison, overcrowding & people living on the streets.

Of the estimated 120,000 homeless in Australia only 6,000 live on the streets. Rabbi Mendel is CEO of Jewish House where vulnerable people can seek help and shelter. Rabbi Mendel believes that collaboration amongst all NGO's in the Homelessness space is vital and has sought to achieve this.

On June 28 the Councillors were invited to Marian Court for a farewell afternoon tea. As Anne Byrnes was unwell and unable to attend, Keri Donovan stood in as convener. I read the opening prayer in Margaret's absence then Moya Potts gave a talk on the history of Marian Court and the hard work and foresight of the CWL Sydney women who provided this wonderful home for so many women now and in the past.

Michelle Pederson congratulated CWL Sydney on behalf of CWL NSW.

Anthony Watts spoke about the history of Marian Court and how his Father in Law had built it and how he had appreciated CWL's efforts. Harry was there and catered for the event. During afternoon tea we mingled and reminisced with the residents and attendees. A very pleasant time was had by all.

Hope to see you all at the WUCWO Mass & meeting in August.

God bless

Viki Pompor
Vice President

PRAY FOR UKRAINE

On 29th May 2022, the Ukrainian Catholic Women's League, invited the Catholic Women's League Australia, to pray for the women and children in Ukraine, at a special Mass, in St Andrew's Ukrainian Catholic Church in Lidcombe,

Unlike the predominant Ukrainian Eastern Greek Orthodox Church, which rejects the infallibility of the Pope in matters of doctrine, St. Andrew's belongs to the Ukrainian Eastern Catholic Church, which is in full communion with Rome. They accept the Roman Catholic faith, keep the seven sacraments and recognise Pope Francis as the supreme head of the church on earth, However, they retain the right to their liturgical traditions, such as icons and the Byzantine Rite.

One of the most interesting differences between the Roman and Byzantine rites, is the way in which the Mass, or Divine Liturgy, as it's called in the Byzantine rite, is celebrated.

The altar and sanctuary are hidden behind a large screen, which symbolises the veil of the Temple in the Old Testament. It is fitted with glass doors, which are opened at the beginning and closed at the end of the ceremony. Adorned with icons, sacred paintings from the Scriptures, it reminds everyone of the presence of the Kingdom of Heaven and the spiritual meaning of the Liturgy.

The priest and congregation make the sign of the cross repeatedly, at all invocations of the Holy Trinity and when receiving a blessing. The thumb and two first fingers are held together, making a three-in-one representation of the Holy Trinity, with the remaining two fingers touching the centre of the hand, representing the two natures of Christ. The forehead, heart, right, then left shoulders are tapped, to show the dedication of mind, heart and strength to God.

The entire liturgy is sung or chanted without an organ or other instruments, as a continuous back and forth conversation between the priest and congregation. Musical instruments are omitted, so the beauty of the human voice lifted in prayer, can be heard.

The priest wears different vestments and uses unfamiliar religious articles or vessels during the service. He moves between the sanctuary and the nave of the church, more often than in the Roman rite, and there are very few parts of the liturgy, in which the congregation is not actively involved. The people are frequently blessed with incense, as it honours God's presence and shows prayers ascending before God.

For most of the time, the priest leads the ritual facing east, with his back to the people. Because they are all on the same journey, priest and people all stand

facing the same direction, looking towards the altar. With the exception of the Creed and the Our Father, the prayers are different from those of the Roman rite and as the Byzantine rite does not use Latin, the liturgy is conducted in the language of the people in the congregation.

Probably the most memorable difference between the Byzantine and Roman rites is in the distribution of Holy Communion. Leavened bread containing yeast, is consecrated into the Body of Christ, instead of unleavened bread with no rising agent included. It symbolises that Christ is the leaven of our lives. The Host is not placed, in the hand or on the tongue, as in the Roman rite. The bread and wine are mixed together in the chalice and the priest places a spoonful in each person's mouth, as they approach the altar with arms folded across their chest to indicate their wish to receive communion,

The Divine Liturgy lasted for an hour and a half during which, for the most part, the congregation were required to stand.

Jay Turner

WUCWO Intl/Sec.



Made with love



Mrs Micalfeff and daughter Helen - a CWL Supporter regularly knit items like these beautiful pieces for Burmese Refugees.

Donate a Doona

Don't forget our doona drive. Saint Andrew's Ukrainian Parish are currently asking for urgent donations of winter doonas and blankets. CWL Sydney is asking all branches to each donate a new doona for the refugees.

For just \$50.00 each branch will cover the cost of a brand new high warmth doona. CWL will organise the bulk purchase and delivery of all doonas to the parish to pass onto the refugees.

Please let us know if you intend on participating in the doona drive by emailing or calling the office

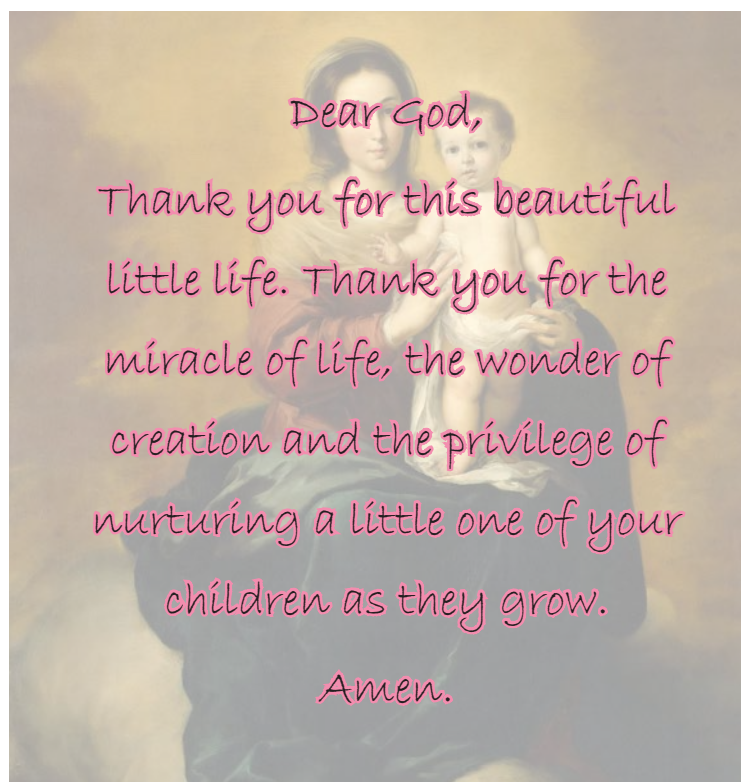
Congratulations Rebeka!



Our Office Manager, Rebeka departed for Maternity leave on June 2.

At our council meeting on June 7 we had a small gift and small farewell lunch for her. She thanked everyone for their well wishes and gifts.

Alden and Rebeka welcomed little baby Remi Joan into the world on Monday June 20 at 7:24am, she was 52cm and 3.59kgs both Rebeka and Remi are doing well.



Many Happy Returns Sr Kath



In April this year Enfield Branch celebrated Sr Kath Maher's 93rd birthday with a lovely cake!

Corpus Christi: our following of Christ



Christ walked the streets of Sydney with more than 13,000 disciples on Sunday June 19 in scenes not seen for years and members of Catholic Women's League were proudly represented, see the arrow in this picture - amongst the many that gathered and walked.

People from every part of the Archdiocese joined together for the annual Walk With Christ to honour the Feast of Corpus Christi after a three-year hiatus due to pandemic restrictions.

Young couples, youth, parents pushing strollers, seniors, religious, members of lay orders, and clergy gathered for the Eucharistic procession under sparkling blue winter skies with prayerful hearts and sunny smiles.

Archbishop Fisher told the assembly that the event was a visible expression of the city's Christians, "followers of Christ, our way, truth and life".

Story Courtesy of the Catholic Weekly.



At our Branch meeting in June we were entertained by the lovely Wivenhoe Quartet, everyone enjoyed the wonderful music immensely. Hopefully they will grace us with an encore later this year!

Parish Renewal Conference 2022

You are warmly invited to join with Sydney's faithful for a day-and-a-half, as we gather for the inaugural Parish Renewal Conference. This will be an opportunity to hear stellar speakers, pray together and share ideas on renewing our parishes.

In the wake of the recent lockdowns and a simultaneous increase of interest in spiritual matters, we have a unique opportunity to re-propose the good news of Jesus Christ to our fellow Catholics, and to the wider community in our parish neighbourhoods.

Register here to join us, so that together we can reinvigorate parish life!

St Mary's Cathedral Precinct

Friday 19 August, 6 – 9 pm and Saturday 20 August, 9 am – 5:15 pm

\$25 per person for parishioners in the Archdiocese of Sydney

Registration essential:

www.gomakedisciples.org.au/prc22

by Sunday 14 August

Enquiries: parishrenewal@sydneycatholic.org

NB: The pricing of all tickets is based on substantial subsidies by the Sydney Centre for Evangelisation to make this as affordable as possible.

An emotional meeting with Pope Francis



Last month Catherine McGrath, Catholic Women's League National Vice President represented WUCWO and the Catholic Women's League, Australia at a private audience with Pope Francis.

The audience greeted Pope Francis individually with handshakes and then each one introduced themselves, their role at WUCWO and their organisation. Catherine was overcome with emotion and tears fell, Pope Francis told her "Don't cry, just smile". He then spoke about the role of women in the church and how important our work is for the Church. "Be strong and continue in the manner you are".

At the end of the Audience Pope Francis gave us his blessing and moved to the doorway where he handed each of us a beautiful set of Rosary Beads and said to me "don't lose your sense of humour". What a wonderful opportunity and day for Catherine!

Amidst ongoing suffering love grows



Leila and Danny, in reflecting on Pope Francis' opening address to the WMOF believe, "That despite the tragedy and suffering that remains very real for us, forgiveness is the narrow path, but the only path that leads to healing, to new life, the life of freedom and hope that God wants for all of his children. We want to bring to reality in practical ways the sort of radical forgiveness that Jesus asks of us and that Pope Francis is asking believers to model in family life."

Danny and Leila spoke to EWTN in the lead up to their speech at the WMOF and discussed how their married love has grown and deepened in the midst of the ongoing suffering. They have an attitude of having seven children, three of whom are now ahead of them, preparing a place for the rest of the family. You can watch their presentation here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DiLGPqJUrw>

Picture and story courtesy of *EWTN*

45 LIFE LESSONS

1. Life isn't fair but it's still good.
2. When in doubt just take the next small step.
3. Life is too short to waste time hating anyone.
4. Don't take yourself so seriously, no one else does.
5. Pay off your credit cards every month.
6. You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
7. Cry with someone. It's more healing than crying alone.
8. Save for retirement, starting with your first pay check.
9. When it comes to chocolate, resistance is futile.
10. Make peace with your past so it doesn't screw up the present.
11. It's OK to let your children see you cry.
12. Don't compare your life to others. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
13. If a relationship has to be a secret you shouldn't be in it.
14. Life is too short for long pity parties. Get busy living or get busy dying.
15. You can get through anything if you stay put in today.
16. A writer writes, if you want to be a writer, write.
17. It's never too late to have a happy childhood. But the second one is up to you- no one else.
18. When it comes to going after what you love in life, don't take no for an answer.
19. Burn the candles, use the nice sheets, wear the fancy lingerie. Don't save it for a special occasion. Today is special.
20. Over prepare, then go with the flow.
21. Be eccentric now. Don't wait for old age to wear purple.
22. The most important sex organ is the brain.
23. No one is in charge of your happiness except you.
24. Frame every so called disaster with these words: "In 5 years, will this matter?"
25. Forgive everyone everything.
26. What other people think of you is none of your business.
27. Time heals almost everything. Give time time.
28. However good or bad a situation is, it will change.
29. Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your friends will. Stay in touch
30. Believe in miracles.
31. Whatever doesn't kill you really does make you stronger.
32. Growing old beats the alternative – dying young.
33. Your children get only one childhood. Make it memorable.
34. Get outside every day. Miracles are waiting everywhere.
35. If we all threw our problems in a pile and saw everyone else's we'd grab ours back.
36. Don't audit life. Show up and make the most of it now.
37. Get rid of anything that isn't useful, beautiful or joyful.
38. All that truly matters in the end is that you loved.
39. Envy is a waste of time. You already have all you need.
40. The best is yet to come.
41. No matter how you feel, get up, dress up and show up.
42. Take a deep breath. It calms the mind.
43. If you don't ask, you don't receive.
44. Yield.
45. Life isn't tied with a bow but it's still a gift.

A Stellar Career

Gloria Brown, Beckenham Section

Catholic Women's League - UK

I contributed to a news sheet which went out every week to the older members of the parish during lockdown, containing a range of topics, suggestions and anecdotes to enliven the dull weeks of lockdown. I'd like to share it with you.

These two cherubs are immediately familiar to us today, seen on greetings cards, chocolate boxes, toiletries, T shirts and scarves. Although they are 500 hundred years old they retain their youthful looks, plus a slight air of boredom, perhaps with the range of goods they are used to display!

Their real home however is not in the modern world of consumerism, but at the foot of an altarpiece painted by Raphael for the monastery church of San Sisto in northern Italy. This depicts Mary, unusually standing rather than enthroned, holding the infant Christ Child and flanked by St. Sixtus and St. Barbara. Originally the painting would have faced the rood screen and the Cross in the church, which is thought to account for the unusually grave and almost fearful expressions of both mother and child.

The '*Sistine Madonna*' as it is known has had an eventful life since it was painted, starting quietly with nearly 250 hundred years as an altarpiece in a monastery. It was acquired in 1754 by August 111 Elector of Saxony for his palace in Dresden. Packed in a box of hay the painting made a perilous winter journey across the Alps, arriving after six weeks to a triumphant royal welcome: August commanded the whole court to rise to its feet in homage to "*the great Raphael*".

In Dresden the painting attracted much attention and was admired by some of the great



and the good, including Goethe, Thomas Mann and Nietzsche, although some doubted the authenticity of the cherubs, who even then seemed to strike a rather jarring note. From the beginning of the 19th century however they began to develop a life of their own; detached from the painting they were reproduced in almanacs and armbands, while photographers used their poses as models for photographs of children. They were particularly popular in Germany, possibly because of the German Romantic era's view of children as pure and innocent, the hope of mankind.

This situation ended abruptly with WW2, when the painting was stored in a railway tunnel for safe keeping. It was found by the Soviets in 1945 and whisked away to Moscow, from where it was eventually recovered in 1956. The excuse for its long kidnap was that it had needed '*extensive restoration*' but luckily there was no sign of any such activity!

From the 1970's on the cherubs were rediscovered as marketing tools and used

extensively. Raphael's original intention in creating them is not really known: it is possible that the monks of St. Sixtus objected to the empty space at the bottom of their picture and Raphael added the cherubs to placate them. Another theory is that they were the children of his model, getting bored waiting around in the studio for their mother, or Italian street urchins looking in at a window....

Whatever Raphael's intention, he could never have envisaged their future as one of independent stardom in the advertising industry....

Branch News & Diary Dates

Upcoming Events:

**CWL Sydney
Annual Mass and Luncheon
August 9**

Please rsvp: cwlsydney@sydneycatholic.org

**Or telephone Jacqui at CWL Sydney
02 9307 8383**

Reminder:

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

Contact us:

cwlsydney@sydneycatholic.org

(02) 9307 8383

Office hours: Tuesday - Thursday 9am - 4pm

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

NAME: _____

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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
Level 8, 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*