

I N F O R M

Catholic Women's League Archdiocese of Sydney

April/May





President's Report

Dear Members,

This will be my last contribution to Inform from our office in Polding Centre, where we have been happy since 2004 . As with moving house, we have been busy culling all the miscellaneous items we have acquired over the years, some of it going to other organisations who were happy to receive it, some transferring to our new office in Harrington Street, and the rest to where junk is usually sent.

We are excited to report that on Wednesday 3 May we received into Harrington Street the first of our office fit-out furniture, being 56 leather chairs for our conference area. We purchased these from a warehouse in Yagoona where we were amazed by the hundreds of chairs, tables and other items stored there and for sale. Our next delivery is expected late this month or early June when our desks, partitions and other furniture items are received from Elite Office Furniture of Silverwater. In mid June all the filing cupboards and other furniture items we are taking with us from Polding Centre will be delivered to Harrington Street to complete the fit-out, and the heavy lifting.

I cannot leave this subject without acknowledging the generous donation of \$10,000.00 from our long term and faithful member, Merle Smith. Her donation has paid almost all of our expenditure on office furniture. Thank you so much Merle.

Having completed the fit-out there still remains a great deal of work sorting out and packing up all the paper records, stationery and dozen other items that comprise a working office. Your Committee would very much appreciate help to completing this daunting task and ask can you please assistance us by attending at Polding Centre for an hour or two on either or both of 30th or 31st May from 10.30 a.m.

We received this fantastic report from Bruce Carr regarding the Delaney college scholarship of twins Charbella and Galia, in his letter, Bruce thanks the support of the Catholic Women's League Scholarship of twins Charbella and Galia. Bruce writes,

“They have grown into strong Delany Angels (my personal reference to many of the amazing women at the College). They have been a significant part of a student leadership team that have introduced Rosary and a Bible study in the College Chapel that we are in the process of refurbishing (it was given over to the uniform shop under the last leadership).”

“They were also an active part of a student leadership team that reinstated the reenactment of the Stations of the Cross as Delany College’s Easter celebrations.”

“They have, on personal levels kept up to date with their academic goals and are tracking well to meet our high expectations of them as strong Catholic young ladies.” We look forward to hearing more about these two incredible young women soon!

The CWL State Conference is to be held on 18th and 19th September at Terrigal. All details of this conference are included separately in this Inform (page 9). Early booking is recommended as the accommodation at the venue is limited.

Congratulations to Monica Doumit on her upcoming speaking tour in the USA. Safe travels Monica.

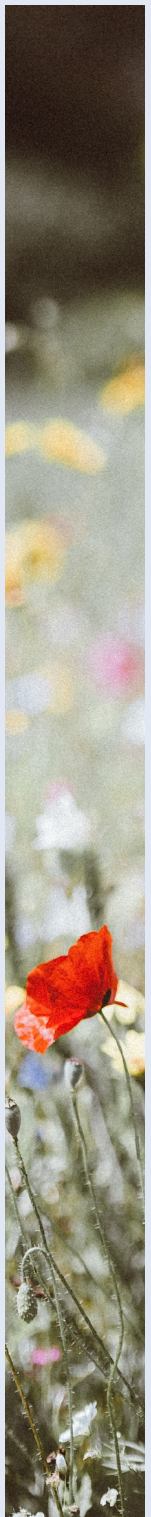
It is with sadness we learn of the death of Barbara Walsh, a long term member of CWL, and of the death of John Chesworth, the Father of our Investment Advisory Committee member, Michael Chesworth. Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

Finally, news of two of our long term and faithful members, Mary Melville has gone into full time care at Uniting Bank Lodge, 93 Baumans Rd, Peakhurst, and Anne Wells is progressing well and is settled in at Padstow Heights.

I hope you enjoy Mother’s Day with your children, grandchildren and extended family.

I wish all of you peace and good health, and God’s blessings.

Margaret



Vale Rita Lucas

(7 April 1923 - 10 December 2022)

Rita Lucas, a member of the Summer Hill Catholic Women's League (CWL), passed away peacefully at Ashfield on 10 December 2022. She was 99.

Rita Mary Warwick was born in Tamworth on 7 April 1923. Rita attended primary and high schools in Lewisham, and later went to St Patricks Business College. Rita would have liked to study accounting, but this was not possible for her at that time. Her first job was with Farmers Department Store and when the war commenced, like many women, she was called on to do essential work at an engineering firm making tools and parts for the US and Australian armies. She became assistant to the production manager.

Rita met Wally Lucas at the Ashfield Dance. They married in November 1949 and moved into a house in Old Canterbury Road Dulwich Hill where Rita lived until March 2021. Whilst Rita did not take up paid employment following her marriage, she was an active volunteer for many organisations including the Coroner's Court, the St Vincent de Paul Society



and the Sisters of Charity Ex-Students. Her enthusiasm often resulted in her joining and leading organising committees. Rita was a foundation member of the Summer Hill CWL joining in 1955 and taking on roles as Secretary, Treasurer and ultimately President. She was always happy to share her experience and mentor current executive and members. Rita was a Councillor for the Sydney Diocese CWL for many years and a CWL life member.

Rita and Wally were blessed with 4 children, 5 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. A little less than a week before she died, Rita held great grandchild number 10, baby Olivia, in her arms.

After Wally's passing, Rita was diagnosed with Macular Degeneration which severely limited her mo-

bility and independence. However, Rita did not let this diagnosis defeat her and, with the support of family and friends, she remained active continuing to see the people and do the things she loved. Rita was always resilient.

Rita was farewelled at a concelebrated Mass of Christian Burial at St Patrick's Catholic Church, where she had been a parishioner for at least 65 years, on 19 December 2022. Her son, Fr Brian Lucas, was one of the many priests concelebrating the Mass. Maria, Rita's daughter, in her words of remembrance at the Mass, observed that if one word could summarise Rita's life it could be "devotion". Rita was devoted to her family and her faith. She gave her all to everything with which she was involved and always looked for opportunities to assist and support others.

The Summer Hill Catholic Women's League is in a stronger position now, thanks to Rita Lucas.

Jean Burns
Secretary,
Summer Hill CWL

News from WUCWO

This year, 2023, marks the 10th Year of Pope Francis' reign and the President General of WUCWO, Maria Lia Zervino, gave thanks for his pontificate. She invited everyone to recall his encyclicals, speeches and actions, in order to understand something of his Magisterial, the authority and power of the church he leads, to teach religious truth.

At his first appearance in Rome after his election, Pope Francis showed his deep humility, when he bent to receive the blessing of the people of God. There would be no place in his pontificate for clericalism.

When he started relating to people as the Bishop of Rome, there was a smile on his face. Joy is something central to his thinking. "The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus - with Christ, joy is constantly born anew".

He encouraged everyone over and over again, to consider that the face of the Church, should be that of mercy. "Everything is revealed in mercy, everything is resolved in the merciful love of the Father."

On the first Holy Thursday of his pontificate, he washed the feet of young prisoners, two of whom were women, one of them a Muslim. In Fratelli tutti 23 he reported that "We are still far from clearly recognising

the fact, that women have the same dignity and the same rights as men. It is a given, that doubly poor, are those women who endure situations of exclusion, mistreatment and violence, since they are frequently less able to defend their rights".

He highlighted the strength of the maternal role within the family, and described as an ecclesiastic dream, the goal of allowing women to have, a real and effective impact on the organisation, important decision making processes and the direction of communities, while continuing to do so in a way that reflects their womanhood.

With the choice of the name Francis, he made his pontificate clear, indicating that dialogue is the way of universal fraternity. The cry of the poorest and the cry of the planet constitute the same crisis to which we are all called to answer. "The path of synodality is the path that God expects for the church in this new millennium".

May the Pope's dream of a listening church, a church of communion, participation and mission be realised.

Jay Turner
WUCWO Intl/Sec

Chaplain's Report

“A vocation comes from the heart of God, but goes through the heart of the mother.” These words of St Pius X are particularly piquant as I write to you having just celebrated Vocation Sunday/ Good Shepherd Sunday and shortly we will celebrate mother's day. Although one should be wary not to overgeneralise, I can say that, at least amongst my close priest friends, all of us have strong bonds with our mothers.

Perhaps this is of little surprise. For it is often said that the relationship between mother and son is of special or distinct significance. As with the relationship between father and daughter. But, again, I say that cautiously without want to overgeneralise things.

Nevertheless, the liturgical tradition of the Church has also given recognition to the role that mother's play in forming the vocations of “good shepherds.” Some of you might have witnessed a priestly ordination. In the rite of ordination, the bishop anoints the hands of the

new priest with sacred chrism oil. Afterwards, the new priest then wipes his hands with a special white cloth that is called the “maniturgium”; simple white cloth. (Mine had my name embroidered onto it with the date of ordination.) The newly ordained priest then gives this cloth to his mother at the first mass. And when, for example, my mother passes away, her hands will be tied with that cloth.

The symbolic nature of this tradition is very beautiful: Our Lord on the day of judgment will say, “I gave you the gift of life and I gave you my son (Jesus). What have you given me?” And the mother, holding up the white cloth, will say, “My Lord, I gave you a priest...Another Christ...”

“A vocation comes from the heart of God, but goes through the heart of the mother.”

In other words, it is the sacrificial heart of a mother – her tirelessness, her prayerfulness, and her utter devotedness to her children –, it is this witness that can create the space for vocations to be heard and

followed: whether that vocation is to be a faithful husband or wife, or a faithful priest or nun.



On “Mother’s Day”, we give thanks for our mothers (living and deceased); and we ask Mary the Mother of God to bless them; strengthen them; and to encourage them — to be like her: faithful, always faithful; faithful to their vocations. For faithfulness

and fidelity in the family are the seedbed for vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

To those members of the CWL who have children of your own, I invite you, too, to pray for the vocations of your children. If they are already married, pray that they remain faithful in marriage. If they are a bit lost, pray that they will discern the will of God for them. And if you are very brave: pray that one of your children or grandchildren will become a priest or a religious. Most of all, pray that you and your families will follow God’s will, and know you will always be ecstatically happy.

Or, as St Catherine of Sienna famously said, “*Be who you are meant to be, and you will set the world ablaze.*” For if we choose not to follow God’s will, then you and I will never be as alive, or as happy, or as fulfilled as we could and should have been.

**God Bless,
Fr Greg**



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE AUSTRALIA
NEW SOUTH WALES INC.

STATE CONFERENCE 2023 "GO FORTH WITH JOY AND COURAGE"

September 18th to 19th
at
The Clan Motel Terrigal
1 Ocean View Drive, Terrigal
Ph. 4384 1566

Come along to the scenic Central Coast for two days of friendship, spirituality, interesting guest speakers and delicious food.

ENQUIRIES
Ph. 04 14 434 856
Email: cwlansw@gmail.com

*Wishing all our Mothers and Grandmothers
are wonderful Mother's Day*

A prayer for Mother's Day

Lord, we remember the mothers
who have gone before us.

**For their love, sacrifice, struggle
and joy, we thank you.**

Lord, we remember the mothers of
Scripture who are a part of our story
as we are a part of your story.

**For their courage, faith, love and
fierceness, we thank you.**

Lord, we remember those who have not
given birth to us, but are mothers to us.
**For their gift of themselves that they
have given, we thank you.**

For the women who struggle with
fertility, for those women whom
society labels as less in their childlessness,
for those women who have lost children.
**For their tears, for their strength,
for their wisdom, for their lives,
we thank you.**

In your name we pray. Amen.

by Claire Schoepp



the loveliest
masterpiece of
the heart of God
is the love
of a mother.



-ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX

CWL Summer Hill Branch invites all Members to their Annual Mass for deceased members on Saturday 27 May at 9am.

St Patricks
Drynan Street, Summer Hill

A morning Tea will follow.



Where are our families?
HALF of Catholic children and teens are in Public Schools.

RESPOND TO THE CALL TO MISSION!

We will show you how to pray and explore Jesus' Good News with students as a Catechist or Helper.



FOR ENQUIRIES, SPEAK TO YOUR PARISH PRIEST OR CATECHIST COORDINATOR.



CCD.SYDNEYCATHOLIC.ORG

SCAN ME

*Upcoming Dates at
Catholic Women's League
Archdiocese of Sydney*

Opening Mass and Luncheon to be held at our new home:
St Patrick's Church Hill
in August.

Date and time to be confirmed.

Our new address from July 1st:

**St Patrick's Church Hill
Level 5 141 Harrington Street
THE ROCKS NSW 2000**

Look out for our new CWL sign as you walk along Harrington Street!

Wrap with Love News

Wrap with Love warehouse have had a bumper first quarter of the year. They started the year utilising their stocks of wraps from Covid years. They trickled out to local charities including 500 that were sent to the Lismore area for people moving Pod accommodation.

Since the Earthquake in Turkiye and Syria they have been working to get wraps to those affected. The Gallipoli Mosque collected 3,750.

5,000 wraps were sent to Syria via the Australian Syrian Association of Victoria. These were distributed to affected areas in Syria.

Thanks to everyone who has assisted so far. Keep them coming in as there is a possibility for further shipments to Turkiye.

The total squares for all the above distributions was 144,250, how incredibly amazing!

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

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

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

Please return with remittance of \$40 to:

Catholic Women's League,

Polding Centre

Level 8, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney 2000

Ph: 9307 8383 Email: admin@cwlsydney.org.au

If you wish to join a Branch as a branch member please contact the CWL Sydney.

Scholarship Update

Recently we received a letter from Valeria, our scholarship student in Year 10 at The School of St Jude, Tanzania. She was also fortunate to attend a recent excursion to a power plant.



Thanks to your ongoing support, our Form 4 students had a great opportunity to visit Nyumba ya Mungu power plant for their study tour this year.

Nyumba ya Mungu power plant is located in the Kilimanjaro region and was constructed in the late 1960s to provide hydroelectricity and irrigation. The students got a deeper understanding of the following concepts: Renewable energy sources, Irrigational farming schemes and government initiatives to promote them.

Field trips are an essential component of a student's learning journey. It strengthens their passion for knowledge and their respect for the natural environment we are all a part of.

We thank you again for your ongoing support in helping us to fight poverty through education.

DEAR
ALL AT THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE,
Hello
Hope all is well with you. I am doing well also. In my side things are going on well. I am really proud of your love, care and support to me.
During my December holiday I spent much of my time with my family members, friends and relatives. I normally spend much time with them because almost 90% of my education journey I spend at school. At home we make stories and have fun with them. The holiday was really short, sweet and interesting.
In my studies this time round I am really working hard since I am in form four an examination class.
This time round different clubs and sports are existing. And I am in Interact club which deals with helping the community by interacting with them, sharing with them challenges and how to solve them but also the successes. And in sports I am doing Football since I really love the game.
In our school we have a Cultural day that is normally held every year. In this day different cultural aspects such as cooking, cultural food, traditional dances, drama, choir and many others are being done on the day. I am going to take part in drama that is just

like a comedy.

My academic expectations for this year is getting division 1 in all my exams and balancing the combination that I wish to take in my advanced education. I am really working hard for this since through hardwork and prayer I will achieve what I want.

Thank you much for sponsoring me.

Stay safe all.

LOVE FROM:

VALERIA FABIAN MOLLER 14C.

