

I N F O R M

**Catholic Women's League
Archdiocese of Sydney**

August/September





President's Report

This is our first Inform since May as June was spent packing up level 8 at Polding Centre, re-distributing many religious items, unwanted glassware and numerous other unusual items.

Office equipment, tables and chairs and other items needed to be sourced to furnish our new home at St Patrick's.

July of course meant unpacking and setting up, no mean feat. A big thank you to the Executive team and a few councillors for their help and input. Jacqui Keady was the backbone of the move and made numerous trips to Harrington Street before the removalists completed the task.

Our August Mass was celebrated at St Patrick's by Fr Paul SM as Fr Greg was unavailable due to Parish commitments. We received a warm welcome to the St Patrick's community from Fr Paul and also from Fr Michael Whelan SM, Parish Priest.

Lunch was enjoyed by 47 members and all expressed delight in our new premises and the spirit of St Patrick's.

The September Branch Meeting on September 12, will make for another delightful day, with the Hope Foundation speaking. We appreciate your presence and supporting these meetings.

A big thank you to the St Patrick's community and staff, particularly John Attneave, Parish Manager - they have been so helpful and welcoming during the the move.

The Executive team are set to travel to Terrigal next month for the CWLA State Conference and look forward to spending time with CWL members from Sydney whom are attending as well.

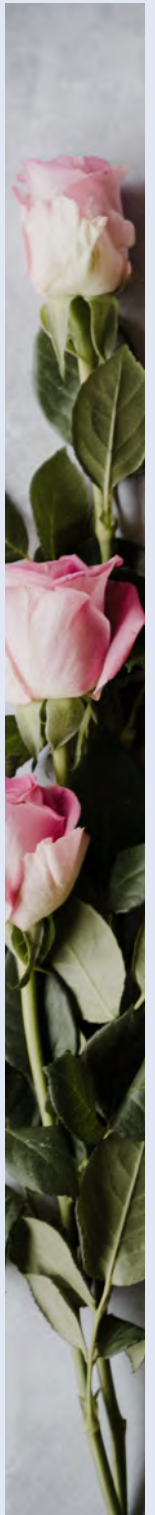
Our prayers and best wishes to all the fathers, grandfathers who have been so important in our lives.

God Bless,

Margaret



Photos from our Inaugural First Luncheon
at St Patrick's Church Hill



Summer Hill Annual Mass for Deceased Members

On 27 May 2023, Summer Hill CWL celebrated our first Annual Mass for Deceased CWL Members. The Mass was held at St Patrick's Church, Summer Hill and celebrated by Parish Administrator Fr Gerard Woo Ling who agreed to celebrate the Mass for Our Lady Help of Christians, patron saint of Catholic Women's League.

Cecily Ristuccia, our President, welcomed members, parishioners and visitors to the Mass, gave an overview of CWL and talked about the 55 wonderful ladies for whom we prayed. Maria Neylan, daughter of Rita Lucas, one of our founding members and our most recently deceased member, led the congregation in the readings and responsorial psalm. We replaced the Prayers of the Faithful with three prayers we pray at the end of each CWL meeting: Prayer for Deceased Members, Prayer for the Holy Father and Prayer for CWL. The congregation joined in saying these prayers.

After Mass we held a morning tea and members and visitors enjoyed the baking efforts of our terrific CWL cooks. Our CWL ladies brought out their finest china for the day, so the room looked beautiful. We look forward to making this Mass an annual tradition which we will hold on the last Saturday in May each year.

Jean Burns

Secretary, Summer Hill CWL



News from WUCWO



The Catholic Women's League Sydney, is one of the organisations involved in WUCWO -the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations, which held a General Assembly in Italy this year. These assemblies to elect officers and set an operating agenda, are held every four years.

From 13th to 20th May 2023, 832 women from thirty eight countries, including fifteen from Australia, representing some eight million women in 67 Catholic Women's Organisations around the world, met in Assisi, to decide on ways to address the fundamental role of women in promoting peace.

A new President General, Executive Committee, Regional Vice Presidents from Europe, Africa, North America, Latin America and the Caribbean and our own Asia -Pacific, as well as Board Members from twenty four countries were elected. They then decided on areas of focus and passed resolutions on goals to address current global challenges and the future of peace and justice in the world for the next four years

After days of discussion and discernment the following resolutions were approved:

- Consolidation and growth of the Women's Observatory in Africa
- Defence of religious freedom
- Response to the global food shortage crisis, care for our common home
- Support for family love, motherhood and fatherhood
- Building the future for migrants and refugees
- Participation in the decision making processes of the Church

Catherine McGrath, our previous Asia -Pacific Vice President and Board Member has retired and Karen De Sousa has been elected to replace her on the WUCWO Board. Karen is a founding member of Catholic Women's League Next Gen based in Adelaide. With the same ethos as the CWL, Next Gen members are in their forties and fifties and the format takes into account their life circumstances. It is a new way for women to pull together and to support each other in their daily lives.

Monica Santamarina from Mexico was elected President General. She is a lawyer, a teacher, a mother and grandmother and has had vast experience in serving the Catholic community in Mexico and internationally. Within WUCWO, she has been Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Vice President General and Treasurer General. She speaks Spanish, English and understands French.

WUCWO has pledged to support President Santamarina in her term of office for the next four years and to actively co-operate in the realisation of the goals set in the resolutions during the Assembly

Jay Turner
WUCWO Intl./Sec



CWL Members attended the 2023 Walk with Christ. It was wonderful to see so many fellow Catholics participate. Footpaths were populated with couples and families looking on. At a time our world needs prayer it was such a joyful spiritual procession.

An update from our 2023 Awardee

I hope you have been well and doing fine. I just wanted to let you know that I have started my final placement at the Royal Rehab Brain Injury Unit in Putney last week and I will finish up in November.

This purpose of this email is to extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to all the women at Catholic Women's League for their amazing support and kindness because I wouldn't be here without them.

Also, I wanted to inform you that my final assessments at the university were a complete success, I passed all 3 units with flying colours.

**Mariatu, CWL Sponsor,
2023 Celebrate Being an
Australian Awardee**

From our Chaplain...

"I wanted someone to push me harder to become the Barbie Doll I wanted to be." I can assure you these are not my words. They are the words of a well-known-social-media-influencer from France named, Anastasia Reskoss. At the age of 17, she gained popular attention when she began her journey with plastic surgery in order to "morph into the doll [she] loves". What began as a few minor "cosmetic adjustments" quickly developed into a litany of "perfective procedures" — from a plethora of nose-jobs and cheek fillers; to have bones broken; her jaw reconstructed; several bouts of liposuction; not to mention repeated visits to a tanning salon and to a dentist to have her teeth whitened to glistening effect.

After having spent over \$500,000 thus far, the process is not yet complete with Anastasia stating she wants further "augmentation, ear reshaping, eye-bag removal, and veneers". Although she is now followed by millions on social media, she lamented that, and I quote, "I felt that there was a certain joy missing from my life. "I wanted someone to push me harder to become the Barbie Doll I wanted to be."

Anastasia's example is obviously an extreme case. And, yet, there is something peculiarly universal about this desire to be pushed in the pursuit of the human pull (attraction) to some form of "perfection". Take a moment to reflect upon the underlying restlessness that every human heart experiences. If we interrogate this experience a little further, we will recognise that there is — within us — a desire (a divine push, if you will) to transform into

something or someone "more". That "more" being some kind or form of perfection.

You might say, then, that life is like a high mountain and all of us are curious as to what "more" we might become of us if we could reach the top. So, we begin to imagine: what would it be like to be happier; wiser; more intelligent; more beautiful. Whatever we think "perfection" looks like? And whatever we think "perfection" looks like, is what we will gradually be transformed into as we 'climb that mountain'. Just as St Clare rightly said: "We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become. If we love things, we become a thing. If we love nothing, we become nothing."

For many, the "perfection" unto which they wish to be transformed is often very material. And this is reflected in the plasticity of culture — people live to be recognised; to stand out materially. But this "superficial perfectionism" diminishes the human spirit. Because the sad thing is — and this is proven time and time again — people make it the top of such mountains and there is always a material let down.

In the process, what's happening to the human heart is that it is become more and more numb. More and more absorbed. And, so the eyes become more and more blind, particularly to the things of God.

Recently, I spent 10 days with 18 young people from my parish at a home in Mexico City for severely disabled children and severely handicapped women. It is run by the Missionaries of Charity, founded by Saint Mother Teresa.

The human beings we encountered there



Fr Greg celebrating his final mass in Mexico with Missionaries of Charity sisters and his team of Youth pilgrims.

– especially the children – would not be found in Australia. Sadly, most of these children would have been aborted; deemed to imperfect for our society. Our culture has said we do not want to see that kind of imperfection amongst us.

But for each of those young people – and myself included – being with them and the nuns who cared for them was, undoubtedly,



a transfiguring moment. Looking into the eyes of the residents, all you could see was love. And they brought love out of us. As one girl said to me, “Father, I realise now that this is what it means to be pro-life”.

In other words, we rediscovered a kind a spiritual perfection in the very place the world would say you can only find imperfection. In the most disfigured bodies, faith allowed us to find the most beautiful of faces: that of Jesus Christ. The nuns made this point clear to us again and again: find Christ in the Eucharist (if you have faith strong enough to trust in Jesus’ words: “This is my body”, “This is my blood”) and your whole vision will be changed such that we will find Christ most alive in the poorest of the poor; we will find the greatest lessons of wisdom in the most disfigured of the disfigured; we will find learn the greatest lessons about true love and perfection in the eyes of those the world would declared loveless and imperfect.

God bless you all!

Fr Greg

High Tea for the Farm

CWL Gymea

More than 170 (and a few men too) came together for a high tea in support of our Project of the Year, The Farm at Galong, a refuge for women who have been affected by substance abuse.

St Catherine Labouré parish priest and chaplain of Sydney's CWL, Fr Gregory Morgan, commended Gymea members for their tireless effort in making the event possible while expressing his delight at the event's attendance, which surpassed all expectations.

Bubbles and banter were shared along with raffles, a silent auction and high tea bingo while seated at beautifully adorned tables complete with fine china, glassware, and floral centrepieces from the members' own gardens.

Branch president Diane McInerney said the overwhelming response showed what women can achieve when they come together in the mission of the church.

"In the space of just three weeks, local CWL members sold tickets after every Mass on two Sundays resulting in 172 guests which was terrific," she said.

Edit from Catholic Weekly





Nomination of Margaret Hinds

Margaret was born in Ashfield on the 29th December 1929. Margaret attended St Ursula's College Ashbury and Secretarial College and worked at the Catholic Education office. Margaret had 4 children and is grandmother to 8 and great grandmother to 16 .

Margaret is a charter member of Catholic Women's League (CWL) Five Dock which was formed in 2007 and is still performing the role of delegate to CWL Archdiocese of Sydney by attending their monthly meetings. She has performed this role diligently and her work has been invaluable to members of her branch. As a CWL lady, Margaret still participates in all our fundraising and chanty work with great enthusiasm and commitment.

Margaret has been a very loyal supporter of her local parish All Hallows, Five Dock. For over 20 years she has taken Holy Communion to Catholics in local nursing homes and parishioners who were too ill to attend Mass. Margaret provided comfort to many people whilst undertaking this task. Margaret has been a member of the Altar Society involving the weekly church cleaning, preparing rosters and a counter of Mass collections. Margaret still attends daily Mass and kindly picks up and drops off other parishioners.

Margaret was a Scripture teacher for over 20 years where she visited children in the local public schools to teach them about the Catholic faith. Margaret also took on the role of Catechist Co-ordinator for three public primary schools in the community so



Margaret Blomfield with CWL Five Dock nominee Margaret Hinds

there was a lot of organising to be done.

When Margaret turned 40 she got her driver's licence and from that day to the present she has been driving people to work, Drs appointments, hospitals, Church and shops. Margaret also supported 3 neighbours who had been diagnosed with cancer by providing meals and taking them to medical and for hospital appointments.

Margaret is an inspirational and positive member of her community. Numerous people have benefitted from not only all her actual deeds but also from her positivity, generosity and because of her deep love of her God and neighbour. She truly lives her Christian values every day. Margaret richly deserves this honour.

Nomination of Marlene Wallace

Marlene Wallace was born on the 5th October 1933 at Lakemba a working-class suburb in southern Sydney. Marlene was the second of nine children born to Edith and Ernest Neary.

After completing her Leaving Certificate at St Ursula's College Ashbury, she progressed to Balmain Teacher's College graduating as an Infants and Primary teacher. She worked at Georges Hall and Condell Park State Schools.

In 1956 she married Ronald Wallace and had 6 children. She has 18 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren.

Throughout Marlene's adult life she has supported a variety of worthwhile organisations and charities being: NSW Teacher's Federation, School Parents and Friends Associations, Social Committee's, Scripture Teacher at State Schools for 22 Years, Scouts, Guides and Children's Sports.

Marlene has been a very valuable member of Catholic Women's League (CWL) Peakhurst Branch for 25 years. She has served as Branch President on 3 separate occasions and Marlene is well loved and respected amongst CWL Members throughout the Archdiocese of Sydney.

She has been a CWL Archdiocese of Sydney Councillor for several years and represented CWL Sydney at the Womens Reconciliation Network – WRN.

Being a member of Probus has offered many opportunities to socialise and develop friendships.

Family and friends, Church and Education are high priorities for Marlene. She loves working and socialising with fellow human beings and offering kindness and compassion. Listening and empowering are essential to her skills. she loved her tennis and golf (now retired) and now enjoys reading, gardening, craft and knitting.



**Margaret Blom field with CWL
Peakhurst nominee Marlene
Wallace**

Dear All at the Catholic Women's League,

Form 4 Mock results.

We are excited to share Valeria's Form 4 Mock exam results. Thanks to your support for Valeria's academic scholarship, she has been able to receive a high-quality education at St Jude's for free.

Valeria sat for her mock exams at the end of Term 1, and her results were awe-inspiring. She attained Division 1 in the mock examinations, which is undeniably outstanding!

Currently, Valeria is in Form 4, a significant national examination year in Tanzania, where all Form 4 students will sit for their national exams in November. As this is a crucial time, Valeria's progress is closely monitored. She will be taking several practice exams leading up to the national exams. It's important to remember that these practice exams are meant to help her prepare, and there is still plenty of time to study before the national exams. During this time, Valeria's teachers will continue to motivate and encourage her to strive to perform to the best of her ability.



**The School
of St Jude**

**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.**



**Supporting
Parish Catechists
in Public Schools**



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SCAN ME

A Father's Prayer

God our Father,

*through the intercession of St Joseph,
we as fathers consecrate ourselves to You,
that You may always be our heavenly guide.*

*We ask you today to bless all fathers that
they may lead their own families to Your
Heavenly Kingdom.*

*We pray that You give them faith, wisdom
and strength in times of need.*

*Grant that all fathers may truly
appreciate the great love You are the One
who has given them the precious gift of
fatherhood.*

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

FASHION PARADE

Spring Collection

SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER

ALL HALLOWS CHURCH HALL

2 HALLEY STREET, FIVE DOCK

1pm start

LUCKY DOOR &
RAFFLE PRIZES
TO BE WON!

Entry fee
\$10
includes
afternoon tea.

Proudly presented by Golden Girl Fashions

Entry fee & 10% of total sales on the day will be donated to CWL Charities.

RSVP: Josie Pappalardo 0421 329 953 by 29th September



Are you thinking of updating your Will?

When you confirm a gift in your Will to the Catholic Women's League Archdiocese of Sydney, you become an eternal patron of your faith and the CWL Sydney.

We know and acknowledge that a gift in your Will is the greatest commitment you could make to sustain the future of our work through sponsorships and assisting those whom cannot survive without this vital assistance.

If this is something that interests you please contact Jacqui at the office for a confidential chat 02 9307 8383.



Upcoming Dates
Catholic Women's League
Archdiocese of Sydney

October 10 - Mass, Branch Meeting and Luncheon

November 14 - AGM and Luncheon

*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 141 Harrington Street, The Rocks 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.