

I N F O R M

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

February/March



President's Report

Welcome back to a new year, with Tex, Jay and Sally I was pleased to attend the NCW Australian of the Year Awards, our sponsor was Angela Dizon. See Sally's report in this edition for all the details.

In late January I attended the Hope Program offices and gave them crocheted rugs for the babies in the program, they were most grateful.

On February 6 we facilitated our first Council meeting for 2024 and welcomed Matilda Peterson to the council.

Our first CWL Meeting and Luncheon for 2024 was held on February 12, we had a fantastic day with Andrea Comastri from Hotel Etico, a lovely boutique hotel at Mt Victoria that is a social enterprise which powers a program providing employment and independent living opportunities to young people with disability.

With our Project of the Year for the past two years wrapping up, I am pleased to announce that our final payment to the Farm will be \$7,000 thanks to the combined efforts of our branches! See further in this issue Tex gives an report on our visit to the farm back in November.



I look forward to seeing many of you at our Lenten/Easter Reflection day on March 21. Join us for Mass at 10.30am at St Patrick's Church bring your own lunch and maybe buy a coffee from St Pats Coffee Shop. \$5 donation.

Don't forget the nomination for the new Project of the Year - beginning 1st June are voted on at the May Council meeting so get your branch nominations in by the April 30.

Remember giving to the Capuchin Friars for the Christmas food and personal item drive? They were most impressed with our hampers. Pictured below; Jacqui with Capuchin Friars, Brother John and Brother Stephen.



God bless all our CWL members and their families, I hope it is a Blessed Easter for you all.

**God Bless,
Margaret**



Open Day at the Farm at Galong

On Saturday 18th of November, five members of the Executive and Council of Catholic Women's League Sydney Archdiocese attended the open day at the Farm at Galong which is a facility focussed on rehabilitation for women and children coming down from drug and alcohol abuse and provides counselling for those suffering domestic violence, with a view to reuniting families.

The Farm has been our Project of the Year for two years now and has been a most rewarding experience.

We were made most welcome and enjoyed morning tea and lunch with other guests, board members and some of the residents who gave amazing and courageous testimonials describing their journey through the Farm program.

They have a very strict daily routine commencing at 7 a.m. in the Chapel and progressing through time set aside for the animals, cleaning, cooking and counselling etc. It sounded like a long day!

The Farm, in the past, has been an aged care facility and a boarding school which is being restored and refurbished; it's first intake of clients was in 2019. It is a beautiful old building surrounded by 3 hectares of farmland and gardens.

Kate Cleary who runs the Farm, is very grateful for any assistance we have been able to give her. Apart from donations,



each year for Christmas we put together a Pamper Pack for each resident, which we delivered during our visit. There were twenty residents last year and eight this year. Speaking with Kate, she thought that eight was a more manageable number.

The very sad news was that the Mum had relapsed and so the Mum and Baby we had been looking forward to meeting were not there. Kate felt it likely, and we can only hope, that her mothering instincts will win through and she will seek help for them both.

After our visit we were all really impressed with the whole enterprise and would like to maintain contact with the Farm into the future.

Tex Quirk
Hon. Treasurer

NCW NSW Celebrate Being an Australian Awards

The NCW NSW Celebrate Being an Australian luncheon is held where Awards are presented to post graduate women to encourage the awardee in her chosen discipline. CWL Sydney has sponsored an Awardee with a \$1,000.00 sponsorship for a number of years.

President Margaret, Jay, Tex and I attended the luncheon on the 22nd January 2024 at State Parliament.

There were 15 Awardees who were presented with their awards by Her Excellency, The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, Governor of NSW and Patron of NCWNSW.

Angela Dizon was our Award recipient. Angela is currently a 3rd year student doing Social Work at Australian Catholic University – Strathfield Campus and doing her first placement at Ryde Hospital. Angela attended Brigidine College St Ives and has attended Holy Spirit Parish her whole life.

Dr. Briony Scott's, Principal Wenona School, impactful and inspiring keynote address left a lasting impression, filling the room with positive energy.

Sally Fennell



ANGELA DIZON

Social Work

Australian Catholic University - Strathfield Campus
Angela completed her schooling at Brigidine College, St Ives, and is currently undertaking a bachelor's degree in Social Work. She is a first generation Australian, born to Filipino parents who migrated to Sydney 25 years ago. She has attended Holy Spirit Parish for her whole life.

As an only child of Asian descent, she was confronted early in life with the idea that she was 'different' from her peers. Although this brought about challenges, she feels her identity has afforded her experiences and a worldview that have provided insight into the existence and role of privilege within societal structures. From a young age, she reflected on her own privileges, which prompted her to explore how particular groups and communities are oppressed and experience significant disadvantages. As her understanding deepened, so too did her desire to support marginalised people by challenging disadvantage and working towards social justice.

Angela always knew that she wanted a career working with people. Completing high school, she was unsure of which pathway she would take to achieve her goals. She began with enrolment in a Primary Teaching degree at Macquarie University. To this she added practical experience working with West Ryde Before and After School Care and Hireup, Disability and Aged Care Support Work. She also achieved qualifications in First Aid and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation. Though rewarding, Angela felt that her passion for equity, human rights, and social justice would be better addressed by changing directions.

Currently as a 3rd year Social Work student, she has commenced her first placement and persevered through hardships involving personal illness (generalised anxiety disorder and OCD). While these hardships have posed their own respective challenges, Angela feels her personal experiences will make her a better practitioner. Angela sees the profession as providing her an opportunity to advocate alongside marginalised groups for positive change. She believes her identity as an emerging and professional social worker will forever be rooted in critical reflection and a love of learning.

Angela is proud of what she has accomplished and excited for what she will achieve in the future. Receiving this award is a meaningful affirmation of her effort and resilience and, additionally, will support her to focus and make the most of her placements.



DOMINICAN SISTERS OF
Saint Cecilia

Founded in 1860—Nashville

WOMEN'S LENTEN RETREAT DAY

WITH THE DOMINICAN SISTERS
OF SAINT CECILIA

CHRIST, OUR FIRM FOUNDATION
Rediscovering the wisdom of the Church's spiritual tradition
Matthew 7:24-27

16 MARCH 2024

**ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL HALL
SATURDAY 10AM-4PM**

Women of all ages are invited to join the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia for a Lenten Retreat Day. This day will focus on renewing the foundations of the spiritual life as we strive to live the Paschal Mystery throughout the year. The retreat day will include all day Eucharistic Adoration and Confessions, talks by the Sisters, personal testimony, a Holy Hour, and discussion groups. Women who have attended previous retreat days with the Sisters are encouraged to bring a friend to this event.



REGISTRATION

SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT THE WEBSITE TO REGISTER
A \$20 FEE ASSISTS WITH COVERING RETREAT EXPENSES.
DOORS OPEN 9AM. TEA & LUNCH INCLUDED
www.bit.ly/3RRAKfa

SUPPORTED BY



**CATHOLIC
WOMEN'S NETWORK**

News from WUCWO



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



*Celebrated on the First Friday in
March Every Year*

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement, led by Christian women from around the world, who call people of all cultures and languages, to observe a special day of prayer, on one particular day each year.

Its origins date back to the 19th century when Christian women in the United States of America and Canada, began organising interdenominational structures to effectively help women at home and in the foreign missions. After World War 1, they were convinced that world peace was intrinsically tied to unity and prayer and this led to the development of a worldwide movement.

On a particular day each year, Christian women, from many different cultures and traditions, call the faithful together to meet and pray at a common service, with a special annual theme.

Every four years, the Ecumenical World Day of Prayer Committee, consisting of representatives from Africa, Asia, North America, Latin America, the Caribbean, Middle East and the Pacific meet. These women from Catholic, Protestant and Orthodox traditions, pray together, and select venues, writers and themes for a common service, beginning as the sun rises in Samoa and creating, what I have heard described, as a tidal wave of prayer, which washes around the world on that one particular day.

More than 170 countries participate in the celebration. People of various

racess, cultures and traditions share in God's Word and worship, using the same order of service, which has been translated into more than 60 languages and 1,000 dialects.

Through the World Day of Prayer, Christians around the world affirm their faith and share their hopes, fears, joys, sorrows and opportunities. Everyone is encouraged become aware of the burdens of other people, to pray for them, and help them to know, that they no longer live in isolation.

In 2019, the World Day of Prayer Committee met in Brazil and selected Palestine as the venue for 2024. An ecumenical group of Palestinian Christian women prayed, reflected together and wrote the service with the theme, "I Beg You - Bear With One Another in Love" based on Ephesians 4:1-7. When the distressing conflict in Palestine arose, they firmly believed that there should be no sides. They invited the world to pray, that humanity and compassion would transcend religious or political affiliations.

On the World Day of Prayer on Friday 1st March, we joined Christians in Palestine and around the world, to pray that the welfare and dignity of every individual irrespective of nationality, religion or origin was respected and that there would be peace and justice for all.

Jay Turner

WUCWO Intl/Sec.

LENT

A Time to Pray, Fast & Give

Donate to families
in need today:



This year, CatholicCare Sydney is working towards helping more than 48,000 children, young people, adults, and families in need.

Your support will enable us to assist those who are experiencing issues with relationships, parenting, ageing, disability, and mental wellbeing.

This Lenten season we ask that you make a small donation to the good works done by CatholicCare Sydney.

CatholicCare
SYDNEY



Catholic Women's League Australia Inc

2024 NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Sat 4th & Sun 5th May 2024

The Catholic Women's League Australia National Conference 2024 will be held on the 4th and 5th May at Rydges World Square Sydney.

The Conference is an opportunity to reconnect and gain insights into a range of important issues.

Attendees will hear from Guest Speakers Dr Joanna Howe - a Professor of Law, advocate for prolife women and mother of five, and Fr Richard Leonard - a Jesuit priest, author, educator and critic of our modern culture, as well as updates from CWLA representatives.



Dr Joanna Howe



Fr Richard Leonard

Booking Information

- Full registration covers the two day Conference.
- One day registration is also available for either Saturday or Sunday.
- All tickets include morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea and Conference Booklet.
- Conference Dinner tickets are also available for purchase on the booking link.
- The Conference will be preceded by the National Annual General Meeting—for Member Organisation Delegates, Conveners, and National Executive.

Booking link: <https://www.trybooking.com/CPNZJ>

More Information

CALL: 0418 110 764

EMAIL: CWLA.INFO@GMAIL.COM



Dates for 2024

April 9 - Savings for Seniors,
Judy Tieu Service NSW

April 18 - Social Drop in day

May 14 - WUCWO Mass & Luncheon

May 23 - Social Drop in day

March 21

**Lenten Reflection Day
Begins at 10.30am Mass
at St Patricks Church Hill.**

**Buy a coffee from St Patricks
Coffee shop and head up to
Level 5 to join us.**



**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 GATECHIST COORDINATOR.**

Supporting
Parish Catechists
in Public Schools

CATHOLIC
ARCHDIOCESE OF
SYDNEY

CCD.SYDNEYCATHOLIC.ORG



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 9254 9825.



CWL Sydney Branch Membership Form

Name

Address

.....
.....

Phone

Email

(I am willing to receive information by email: Yes/No)

ANNUAL BRANCH MEMBERSHIP FEE \$35.00

ANNUAL DIOCESAN MEMBERSHIP FEE \$40.00 - if you don't attend a parish branch of C

PAYMENT DETAILS:

Direct Debit BSB 062784 A/c 100012612. Ref. your surname.

Following payment please email completed form to
admin@cwlsydney.org.au or petexq2@gmail.com

If paying by cheque, please make payee CWL
Sydney
and post to:

Catholic Women's League Sydney
141 Harrington Street
The Rocks NSW 2000

Further enquiries please telephone the office on
(02) 9254 9825
Tuesday - Thursdays