

I N F O R M

*Catholic Women's League Archdiocese of Sydney
June/July 2020*



President's Message

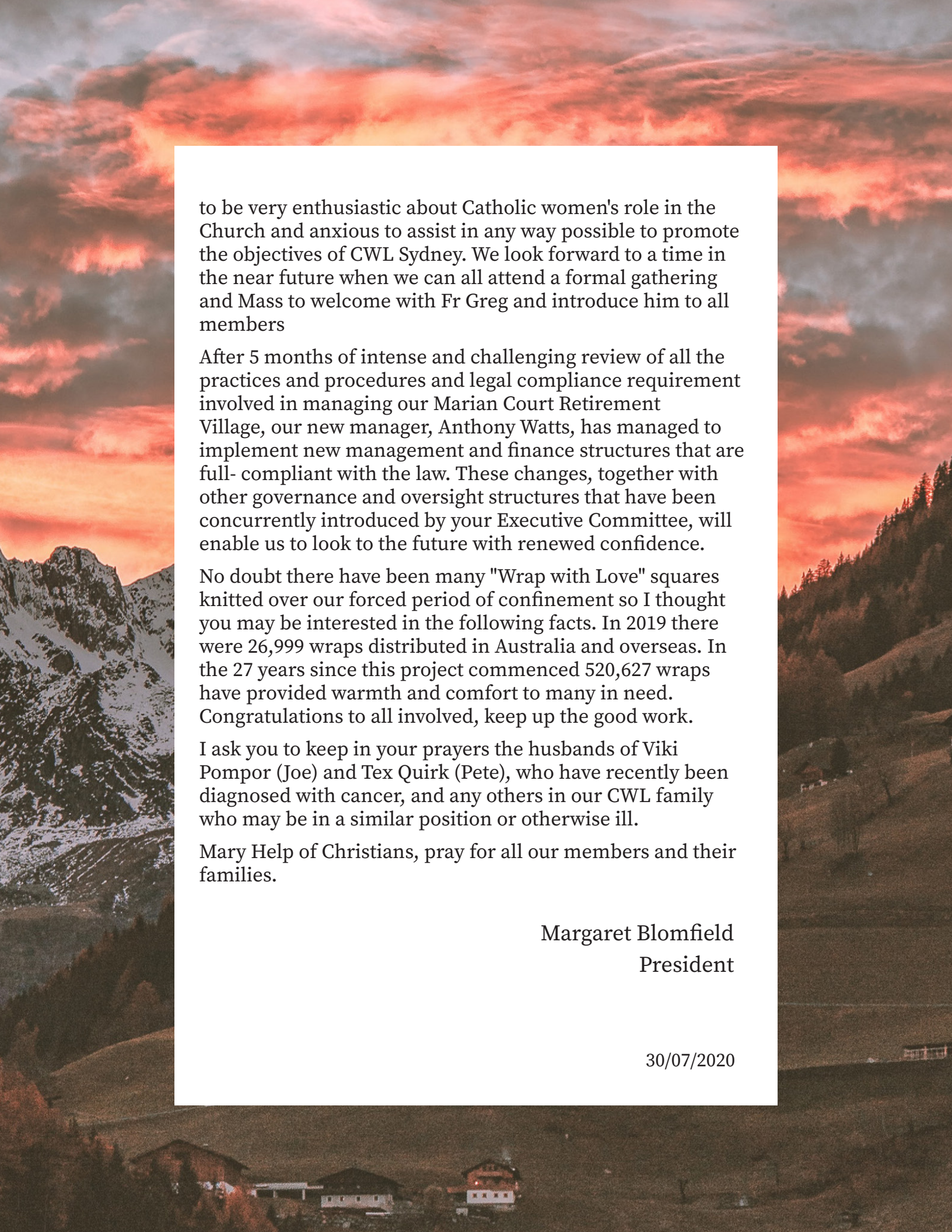
Firstly, I hope and pray you are all in good health both physically and mentally, and free of the dreaded virus.

Although COVID-19 is still affecting our lives and restricting our activities, we must not let it interfere with our communication and interaction. Your executive, due to the wonderful effort Maddie has contributed, has used our newsletter "INFORM" to keep everyone aware of current issues and gossip.

It is pleasing to hear from several of our branches that their meetings have recommenced. encourage all branches to recommence monthly meetings wherever possible when distancing and other restrictions can be complied with. Unfortunately, so far as Branch gatherings are concerned, we are unable to comply with those restrictions in Polding Centre at present.

In consultation with WUCWO and our Asian Pacific neighbours the decision was made earlier in the year to cancel the Asian Pacific Conference due to be held in May 2020. The committee had hoped to re-schedule the conference for May 2021 but due to travel restrictions it has now been cancelled.

Some really good news is the appointment of a new Chaplin for CWL Sydney. The Archbishop has appointed Fr Greg Moran, presently of the Gynea Parish, as our Chaplin. The Executive Committee met with Fr Greg over an informal lunch and found him



to be very enthusiastic about Catholic women's role in the Church and anxious to assist in any way possible to promote the objectives of CWL Sydney. We look forward to a time in the near future when we can all attend a formal gathering and Mass to welcome with Fr Greg and introduce him to all members

After 5 months of intense and challenging review of all the practices and procedures and legal compliance requirement involved in managing our Marian Court Retirement Village, our new manager, Anthony Watts, has managed to implement new management and finance structures that are full-compliant with the law. These changes, together with other governance and oversight structures that have been concurrently introduced by your Executive Committee, will enable us to look to the future with renewed confidence.

No doubt there have been many "Wrap with Love" squares knitted over our forced period of confinement so I thought you may be interested in the following facts. In 2019 there were 26,999 wraps distributed in Australia and overseas. In the 27 years since this project commenced 520,627 wraps have provided warmth and comfort to many in need. Congratulations to all involved, keep up the good work.

I ask you to keep in your prayers the husbands of Viki Pompor (Joe) and Tex Quirk (Pete), who have recently been diagnosed with cancer, and any others in our CWL family who may be in a similar position or otherwise ill.

Mary Help of Christians, pray for all our members and their families.

Margaret Blomfield
President

30/07/2020

WELCOME TO OUR NEW CHAPLAIN - FR GREG MORGAN



Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Fr Greg Morgan Jnr. (confusingly, there are actually two Fr. Greg Morgan's in Sydney – I'm the 'junior' one). It is with great honour, gratitude, and excitement that, following Archbishop Fisher's appointment, I humbly assume the role of Chaplain to the Catholic Women's League, Sydney Archdiocese.

I have long been a staunch believer in the need for Catholic women to have a much more powerful voice in the life of the Church. Thus, I am firmly committed to serving and supporting the current members of the CWL in the tremendous work you are already doing and to help encourage new members to join this esteemed organisation.

I was ordained a priest of the Archdiocese of Sydney in 2011 at the age of 24. After three years as an assistant priest at the parish of All Saints, Liverpool, and a brief sojourn as the Administrator of Broken Hill Cathedral, I was sent for further studies in the UK. In 2015, I completed a Masters in Philosophy at the University of Cambridge, specialising in the Philosophy of Religion. I then moved to the University of Oxford for a Doctorate in Philosophy specialising in the fragmentation of jurisprudential language. I also have a particular

interest in questions of ethics and in the theological import of so-called “post-modern” philosophy.

Since returning to the Archdiocese of Sydney, I have been appointed as an Assistant Priest of Saint Catherine Laboure’s Church in Gymea, as well as an Adjunct Lecturer in Philosophy/Ethics at University of Notre Dame, and the Catholic Institute of Sydney.

I love being a priest and I love the Catholic faith more than anything in the world. But, in keeping with Hillaire Belloc’s poetic aphorism, I also love good food and good red wine! At least in my case, however, good food and good red wine presuppose the company of others and so my greatest hobby is meeting and being with people from all walks and works of life. There is nothing I enjoy more!

I’ve already begun praying for all the CWL members, but I am really looking forward to meeting you all in the near future. Please, never hesitate to contact me if I can ever be of help to you in whatever shape or form.



COPING WITH COVID-19

Last issue we asked readers to send us stories about their experiences related to the current global Covid-19 pandemic. It has been a strange, often stressful time for all of us, and I hope you find some comfort in reading about the experiences of others. Thank you very much to those who sent something in!

The Covid -19 lock down and self isolation, had made me appreciate how difficult it is to shop by proxy. Until then, I wasn't aware, that I didn't know the brands names, of many of the regular purchases on my shopping list. I am used to buying a bottle or can of whatever I want, located on the second shelf, in the third aisle of the supermarket and consequently, among other things, I've had to do without my favourite breakfast cereal. The description of "the blue packet containing lots of fruit and nuts" has resulted in many strange variations, and in one case an unscheduled visit to the dentist.

There my temperature was checked, followed by a questionnaire about my contacts, movements and health status, before I was allowed into the surgery. The dentist met me wearing a surgical gown, gloves, magnifying glasses attached by a headband and a mask covering his entire face, hair and ears. I wish I had thought to take a photo - he looked like someone from outer space!



*Jay Turner
CWL Sydney Councillor
Concord West Branch*

BREAKING NEWS!

Women aged 30 - 70 are most likely to carry Covid -19 without symptoms.
Best course of action is to quarantine them away from men and children!

The local spas and wineries are the designated quarantine centres - SEND WOMEN IMMEDIATELY! No contact for 14 days while they live in misery

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Please wear a mask at home, especially when alone. This may or may not prevent Covid 19 But it will surely stop you from eating!

Finland has closed its borders: No one is allowed over the Finnish line.

Fortunately I haven't reached the big 70 (nearly there) so at the beginning of COVID-19 restrictions I didn't have to self-isolate and therefore I was able to go out walking each day and am lucky to be very close to the shops so able to get a cappuccino on the walk and pick up items at Woollies.

I am finding a few positives the main one being the bank account is growing. Like most of us I am doing a few extra chores although it is taking a while to get the jobs done and have found many things I have forgotten I owned. Also love the sleep ins and am having a great time with my smart TV watching catch up tv and You Tube videos. Time seems to be flying by but I think that is because I am being lazy and takes me a while to get motivated but by saying that I am happy!!

Of course I am missing face to face meetings but happy now meeting

friends (with social distancing of course) and going to cafés to sit down and eat. I can't wait to get back to the theatre, concerts etc but as I said the bank balance is growing. Finding replying to emails a bit of a chore – again the motivation factor.

It is great being able to go the Church for Sunday Mass and Communion again. I am lucky that not too many parishioners want to attend 7.30 am Mass so always room to attend.

I hope you are all coping well with the current situation and that we can all meet face to face very soon.

Sally Fennell
CWL Sydney WUCWO Intl. Secretary

Coronavirus: Letter To Humanity

The earth whispered but you did not hear.
The earth spoke but you did not listen
The earth screamed but you turned her off.
And so, I was born...
I was not born to punish you...
I was born to awaken you...
The earth cried out for help...
Massive flooding. But you didn't listen.
Burning fires. But you didn't listen.
Strong hurricanes. But you didn't listen.
Terrifying Tornadoes. But you didn't listen.
You still don't listen to the earth when
Ocean animals are dying due to pollutants in the waters.
Glaciers melting at an alarming rate.
Severe drought.
You didn't listen to how much negativity the earth is receiving.
Non-stop wars.
Non-stop greed.
You just kept going on with your life...
No matter how much hate there was...
No matter how many killings daily...
It was more important to get that latest iPhone than worry about what the earth was trying to tell you...
But now I am here.
And I've made the world stop on its tracks.
I've made YOU finally listen.
I've made you take refuge.
I've made you stop thinking about materialistic things...
Now you are like the earth...
You are only worried about YOUR survival.
How does that feel?
I give you fever...as the fires burn

on earth.
I give you respiratory issues...as pollution fill the earth air.
I give you weakness... as the earth weakens every day.
I took away your comforts...
Your outings.
The things you would use to forget about the planet and its pain.
And I made the world stop...
And now...
China has better air quality...
Skies are clear blue because factories are not spewing pollution unto the earth's air.
The water in Venice is clean and dolphins are being seen.
Because the gondola boats that pollute the water are not being used.
YOU are having to take time to reflect on what is important in your life.
Again, I am not here to punish you...I am here to Awaken you...
When all this is over and I am gone... please remember these moments...
Listen to the earth.
Listen to your soul.
Stop Polluting the earth.
Stop Fighting among each other.
Stop caring about materialistic things.
And start loving your neighbors. Start caring about the earth and all its creatures.
Start believing in a Creator.
Because next time I may come back even stronger...

Signed,
Coronavirus

*Written by Vivienne R Reich
Thank you Rae Wales for the submission*



TjSingh @covsinghtj · Apr 4

Himalaya mountains can be seen from Jalandhar since pollution has reduced in Punjab. Beautiful sight 🥰 #punjab #COVID19 #pollution



Many negative words, situations & thoughts run through our brains as we struggle during this challenging time. Maybe we can share a few positives together to brighten our days. Have you noticed how faces light up when we see familiar folk at the super market or just when we are walking around our neighbourhood?

As restrictions at Church Services are loosening, more parishioners are registering to attend Weekday & Sunday Masses. Peakhurst CWL Executive decided to hold our first Branch Meeting since the shutdown. On Wednesday, 15 July, our usual meeting date, it was decided to celebrate in style with Christmas in July luncheon in our Parish Hall. Permission was given by Fr Tony Alex, who also offered to Celebrate a Special Mass for us at 12 noon. After a beautiful Mass we headed to the hall for a brief meeting, followed by a tasty finger food luncheon served by lovely Sally, daughter of our Secretary, Marie Ryan. From the attractive decor of the tables to the social distancing and hygienic food handling to glowing faces of our friends - it was a great celebrating. We were honoured to share lunch with Fr Tony who also enjoyed chatting with each of the ladies. There were 22 of our 26 members in attendance.

We plan on beginning 2 Silver Circles - first draw 17 August.

*Marlene Wallace
CWL Sydney Councillor
Peakhurst Branch*

A nice letter from Transport NSW, Parramatta Office telling me that my licence is up for renewal and would I please renew it as soon as possible for 'due process'.

As a diligent and civil obedient member of the five score and ten plus age group, I heeded the edict of no less a person than the Prime Minister of Australia, Scotty himself in that during this covid pandemic, I remain in isolation.

Bearing this in mind, and with plenty of time on hand, I filled in the form and returned it to the Parramatta Office.

Some days after said licence had expired, received a nice letter from the Transport Office in Parkes, where the dish is, returning licence form saying no we don't do that, fill it in on line.

I really did try, but to no avail.

Bright, intelligent, digitally savvy granddaughter said 'I will do it'. Some days later, admitted defeat.

Received another nice letter from the Parramatta Office saying my licence now overdue.

Nothing for it but to front as advised 'nearest office'. Flanked by granddaughter and daughter

I joined a reasonable queue at the nearest office and in due course a delightful young lady admitted me, but no room for 'others'. After a while, fronted counter, but again no. You need medical certificate here is form take to your GP.

Visited doctors rooms, you know, where all the sick people are. With completed form in hand returned to nearest office. Queue longer than Centrelink, around corner and up the road. Went home.

Another day, early, nearest office just opened. Joined the queue. Different person on the door. No, you will take too long, I heard her tell prospective client. You can go in (to me). Nowhere to sit areas carefully taped off for our safety. All counters occupied-all seemed to be in lengthy discussions. About an hour later reached counter and am quickly processed. A temporary licence she said and my heart plummeted...until your licence arrives by mail.

It did - from Parkes.

Submitted by an anonymous reader

Upon hearing from my ladies that they would like to actually talk to friends face to face, I hit upon the idea of attending mid-week Mass, 9.20am at St Charles Borromeo, Ryde, where social distancing was in place and we could receive the Eucharist, which most of us had been missing as we were watching 10am Sunday Mass on our electronic devices.

I rang the office and found Wednesday and Thursday were the least attended days.

We had a meeting with Fr. Greg. Morgan, Our Parish Priest who was very keen for us to use the Parish Hall after Mass for a cuppa, with social distancing of course, and they would make sure the heating was on for us.

Well on sending out emails or ringing, arranging the date for Wednesday 10th June, I received an enthusiastic reply, all were looking forward to an outing in a safe environment, and seeing and talking to friends as well as attending Mass. Only two of the ladies were unable to attend, one was minding grandchildren and one health reasons.

Well we had a great time, elbows were pressed, operations and pains were discussed, photos of grandchildren were shown etc. over tea and coffee and cake, everyone enjoyed themselves, most couldn't wait to get

back to our monthly meetings.

We will have our first meeting back together on Monday 27th July at 1pm in the Parish Hall.

Beth Kosnik
President Ryde/Gladesvile Branch

It was on Day 4 of the lockdown when Fluffy decided there had been enough family time.



I woke early one morning to this extremely loud unusual noise. It continued becoming louder as I moved around the house looking for the reason. I found to my surprise a large number of large Sulphur Crested Cockatoos on our lemon tree and clothes line eating the lemons. By the time I came downstairs and outside they had stripped the tree of lemons, sitting looking at this mad woman running around the yard trying to shoo them away, eventually flying off - leaving many half eaten lemons on the roof, the awning and lawn. A few nights later I awoke to another strange noise, this time bush turkeys on the roof, a whole family, what a racket. I was outside once again only to find them fly down, run across the driveway and turn look at me and go next door. All this time my husband remained sound asleep, next morning saying he heard nothing and was I dreaming.

*Loretta Chester
CWL Sydney Councillor*

Meanwhile, Inside the fridge



It all started in March. Lock down. Living on my own I was used to doing what I needed to do but all activities were suddenly stopped. The worst thing was not seeing the grandchildren. Lots of phone calls took place and also some face time, which was a lot of fun. Not being able to go to Mass was hard but live streaming was a blessing. What changes did I make? Well a lot of cupboards were tidied up. The garden got a lot more attention. I started to relearn the piano as I had forgotten how to read music. It is a slow process. A few months later some of children started to visit. Social distancing was the norm. Mother's Day was the best as throughout the day all the children came to see me. Some of my children are more cautious than others but I just have to understand their point of view. When this is all over we will look back and realise we were not too badly off and we all survived.

*Margaret Burke
CWL Sydney Vice President*

I CAN'T GO TO THE MOVIE THEATER OR PIZZA PARLOR! I MISS MY CLASSMATES



ANNE FRANK AND HER FAMILY SPENT TWO YEARS IN AN ATTIC



Every year is new and different from the last but 2020 thus far is definitely a topper. For my husband and I the year started off with an excitement and anticipation of a new chapter in our lives. I had been researching over 55 retirement villages for several months and had found the right one at Cobbitty. The decision had been made and the deal had been done and settlement was set for the end of January, so I had been sorting and culling and packing since before Christmas.

As usual and expected January and February were very hot and packing and moving is hard work, but with the help of family and friends we were getting the job done. We had the benefit of not having a deadline to be out of the house at Fairfield so it was the intention to move in with what we needed, which took three or four loads – not to mention the garden statures and potted plants, that took several more loads (in fact, we have not yet finished that lot) and then we would continue to go back and forth and do the necessary work in the house and in the yard and clear the garage – the garage, that’s a story in itself and one I don’t care to go into now.

We were going well and then...yes...the lockdown. This actually gave us a chance to settle in and unwind a bit. Of course all the social activities at the village came to a halt, there is a movie theatre here and we have been once, I had been in the pool once and then it all stopped and is not back on yet due to the distancing restrictions.

ANZAC Day was very moving, we all came out the front to the street at 6am with our candles. One man said the prayer “Lest we forget”, another had recorded the last post and played it through speakers and Ray sang Advance Australia Fair. There were several gatherings throughout the village street by street.

The house here is great and the people are lovely. We are surrounded by Wivenhoe Conservation Area so there is plenty of bush walking to be done, which we do and enjoy and have met many other residents who are also out walking, and when not walking many of us sit out the front on the veranda with a cup of tea and say hello to anyone else doing the same or those walking



past. Many residents bring a chair out to the roadside and sit along both sides of the road bringing morning tea or if later in the afternoon bring their wine or beer or nibbles and socialise while keeping distanced.

I have been to the supermarket and to the local growers market donned in mask and gloves. I do miss a good old mooch around the shops just looking and browsing, sitting at a café and having a coffee with friends, but that will come around again although I do believe we will experience a new normal from here on in which I don't think is a bad thing. We should be more aware of hygiene and spacing.



Last Saturday we celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. No bit party in a hall allowed but we had a lovely gathering at home with family, a total of 16 guests. Our children took care of everything, the invitations, the decorations, and the food, I wasn't allowed to do anything in preparation. The house looked lovely, very special, we all had a great time. Better than a big do.

What a wonderful day we had yesterday, Monday 20th July. We had Mass celebrated here in our home. The previous Monday I had phoned our dear friend Father Tibby who was coming for a visit and when he realised we had just had our 50th wedding anniversary he offered to say Mass for us. With the help of a lady who lives in the same street and who I knew to be catholic, we had four ladies from the village, including Denise McCaffery and two friends from Fairfield. Fortunately the open plan lounge/dining room is big enough that we were able to be socially distanced with Father behind the kitchen bench, which was turned into an altar with white tablecloth, a cross and candles. It was so good. The first time we had received communion since March, and topped off with receiving a special blessing. Very special.

*Sandra Skarsky
CWL Sydney Secretary
Fairfield Branch*

NEWS AND DIARY DATES

Due to Covid-19 we are still unable to host our monthly branch gatherings. Rest assured that when restrictions are lifted, we will certainly be celebrating together! In the meantime, we want to stay connected you - we will continue to send out Inform, update our website, and be contactable via email. Any voicemails left on our phone in the office will also be attended to, as they are automatically sent to our email. We hope you keep safe during this strange time.

CWLA-NSW State News

After initially postponing until next year, unfortunately the WUCWO Asia Pacific Regional Conference has been **cancelled**. Those who paid their registration etc. should receive a full refund. Please contact CWL Sydney if you have any issues.

Our State **Bioethics newsletter** has been recieved - this will be sent out to the branches/diocesan members with *Inform*.

The upcoming State Council Meeting will be conduscted via Zoom - like many, meetings are having to adjust to the current times!

CWLA National President Kate Mathai forwarded to all State Presidents an invitation to join in a Novena for Priests throughout the world, particularly in light of how the current pandemic would be affecting them.

We thank our State Executive, who continue to work hard during this time of social distancing and lockdowns.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

We have LOVED reading all the stories and submissions from our members the last two issues of Inform. We would like to continue hearing from you - for our next issue, please send in stories about your **father** or a **father figure** (as part of a Father's Day special).

Please email your stories/pictures to cwlsydney@sydneycatholic.org

*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*