

I N F O R M

*Catholic Women's League Archdiocese of Sydney
April/May 2021*



President's Message

Easter celebrations have come and gone and we are now in the month of May. We celebrate mother's day on the 9th of May to thank mothers for their love and sacrifice over the years. May is also the month of special devotion to our mother Mary and a renewed commitment to reciting the rosary for the protection of our families and our Christian values.

St Patrick's day was celebrated with the wearing of the green, green food and a little bailies. Meg from the Polding Centre reception entertained us with Gaelic and well known Irish songs. What a privilege to have listened to such a talented singer.

We are appealing project of the year proposals submitted by the end of May. In the current climate fundraising is out of the question for most branches so any project may have to be kept for the future.

Sad to say after 27 years Chris McKirdy is retiring to enjoy a life of leisure. A big thank

you to Chris from all CWL members for her organising of so many successful functions over the years. Chris has been a great support to me personally during difficult and trying times and I will miss her input into our executive meetings.

Our chaplain Fr Greg has been most supportive of CWL and hopes to visit as many branches as possible. Thank you Fr Greg.

Pope Francis prayer at Easter

“May the hearts of those who have enough be open to filling the empty hearts of those who do not have the bare necessities.”

As members of CWL we aim to fill the hands of women and children wherever possible.

Mary help of Christians pray for us.

Margaret Blomfield

President

11/05/2021

FR GREG'S REFLECTION

From the Chaplain



“The Crowd is untruth!” So declared the nineteenth-century Danish-Christian philosopher, Soren Kierkegaard. “The Crowd is untruth!”

In the lead up to this Easter triduum, 2021, I have found myself reflecting, in particular, upon the role the crowd played in Our Lord’s passion. On this score, Kierkegaard’s point certainly resonates — that just because an opinion or a belief is popular does not make it true. In fact, as we also discover in Holy Week, the “crowd” can be very fickle in its opinions and beliefs. On Palm Sunday we – the “crowd” – shout “Hosanna!” and, yet, but a few days later we – the same “crowd” – shout “crucify!”

However, one of the striking points about the Passion of Jesus is the role that a number of faith-filled and courageous women play, which set them apart from the “crowd”; even at great personal risk. According to tradition, Saint Veronica wipes Our Lord’s face with her veil as He carried his cross; a gesture of heroic charity.

The Scriptures specifically mention how a number of women

followed Our Lord on his path to Golgotha weeping and mourning; a public expression of heroic love. And, of course, Our Blessed Mother, Mary, never leaves her Son's side as he hung upon the Cross; the perfect embodiment of fearless love.

It is my prayer this is Easter is that all the current members and the future members of the Catholic Women's League will derive much strength and inspiration from these women.

In my short interactions with you, I, myself, have been incredibly inspired by the desire to proclaim anew the teachings of Jesus Christ amongst the members and executive of this rich organisation – to dare to separate yourselves from the “crowd” of convenience and, instead, form a community of individuals who are proud of their rich Catholic heritage and proud to proclaim the dignity of all human life. For such reasons and more, I firmly believe that the voice of Catholic women is so needed in our Church and in our culture today. But I firmly believe that your voice will be much more efficacious if the CWL can rediscover its vision – not in the “untruths” of the “crowd” – in the truth of the cross.

The women in the Gospels attest to the power of this vision through their saintly works of mercy and the resilience of their faith. As I heard one nun put it, “it was the women who stayed”.

On that note, I pray that you all will stay close to Christ this Holy Week. May I wish you, too, a blessed and holy Easter. I look forward to supporting you in the exciting years ahead.

God bless you!

Fr Greg Morgan

The Origins of Mothers Day.

Since the 16th. century , the fourth Sunday in Lent, exactly three weeks before Easter Sunday, has been celebrated in the United Kingdom and Ireland as Mothering Sunday. It was originally a day for families to honour and give thanks to the Virgin Mary, also known as Mother Mary, by returning home to visit their “mother” church - the church in which they were baptised or their local parish church.

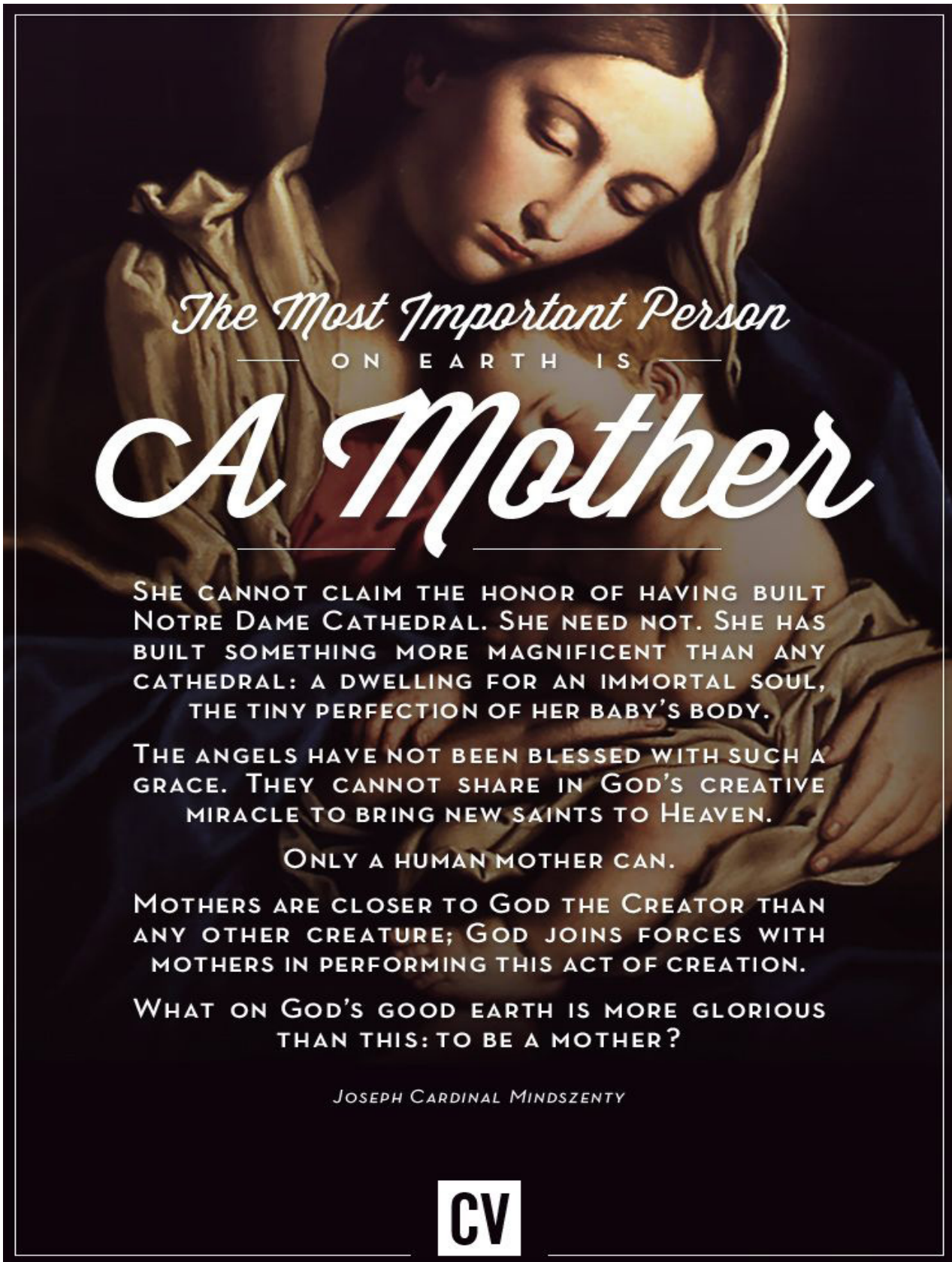
In Victorian times, Mothering Sunday became the day when children, often only ten years old, who worked as domestic servants and apprentices, were given the day off to join their families and visit their mothers. It was the only time whole families could gather together, as servants were not given free days on other occasions. They would pick wild flowers along the way to place in the church or give to their mothers. Eventually the religious tradition evolved into the Mothering Sunday custom of giving gifts to mothers.

After the death of her own mother, Anna Jarvis in the United States, lobbied President Woodrow Wilson to create a holiday to honour all mothers. In 1914, he officially proclaimed the second Sunday in May as Mothers Day - a national day to celebrate mothers in the United States.

During World War II, American and Canadian soldiers, feeling a crucial need to give thanks to their mothers, celebrated Mothers Day whilst away at war. Their British and other European comrades followed suit and joined them in giving thanks to their mothers. Original traditions merged with the newly imported ones and by the 1950's, people from Ireland and the United Kingdom, started celebrating Mothers day on the same day as Mothering Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent.

In Australia we have followed the American custom and give thanks for our mothers on the second Sunday in May.

Jay Turner



The Most Important Person
ON EARTH IS
A Mother

SHE CANNOT CLAIM THE HONOR OF HAVING BUILT NOTRE DAME CATHEDRAL. SHE NEED NOT. SHE HAS BUILT SOMETHING MORE MAGNIFICENT THAN ANY CATHEDRAL: A DWELLING FOR AN IMMORTAL SOUL, THE TINY PERFECTION OF HER BABY'S BODY.

THE ANGELS HAVE NOT BEEN BLESSED WITH SUCH A GRACE. THEY CANNOT SHARE IN GOD'S CREATIVE MIRACLE TO BRING NEW SAINTS TO HEAVEN.

ONLY A HUMAN MOTHER CAN.

MOTHERS ARE CLOSER TO GOD THE CREATOR THAN ANY OTHER CREATURE; GOD JOINS FORCES WITH MOTHERS IN PERFORMING THIS ACT OF CREATION.

WHAT ON GOD'S GOOD EARTH IS MORE GLORIOUS THAN THIS: TO BE A MOTHER?

JOSEPH CARDINAL MINDSZENTY



YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

DECEMBER 8, 2020 - DECEMBER 8, 2021



Litany of St Joseph

*Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy.
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Christ hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.*

*God the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.
God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, One God, have mercy on us.*

*Holy Mary, pray for us
Saint Joseph, pray for us
Renewed offspring of David, pray for us
Light of Patriarchs, pray for us
Spouse of the Mother of God, pray for us
Chaste guardian of the Virgin, pray for us
Foster-father of the Son of God, pray for us
Diligent protector of Christ, pray for us
Head of the Holy Family, pray for us
Joseph most just, pray for us
Joseph most chaste, pray for us
Joseph most prudent, pray for us
Joseph most strong, pray for us
Joseph most obedient, pray for us
Joseph most faithful, pray for us
Mirror of patience, pray for us
Lover of poverty, pray for us
Model of artisans, pray for us
Glory of home life, pray for us
Guardian of virgins, pray for us
Pillar of families, pray for us
Solace of the wretched, pray for us
Hope of the sick, pray for us
Patron of the dying, pray for us
Terror of demons, pray for us
Protector of the Holy Church, pray for us*

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.*

The year of Saint Joseph

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St. Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special "Year of St. Joseph." It is a wonderful opportunity to increase our love for St. Joseph and knowledge, "to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal" (Patris Corde)

Pope Francis describes Saint Joseph as a beloved father, a tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father; a father who is creatively courageous, a working father, a father in the shadows. Saint Joseph, in fact, "concretely expressed his fatherhood" by making an offering of himself in love "a love placed at the service of the Messiah who was growing to maturity in his home," writes Pope Francis, quoting his predecessor St Paul VI.

The 'year of St Joseph' begun on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extends to the same feast in 2021.

Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ chose to enter the world through the human family; He came as an infant born into the marriage and home of the two holiest human creatures who ever lived: Joseph and Mary. Although He was God, He was obedient to them as a Child, and under their watchful care "Jesus advanced in wisdom, and age, and grace with God and men" (Luke 2:51-52). In this Jesus gave us an example, that we too as His disciples are meant to entrust ourselves to Joseph and Mary, learning from them how to grow in holiness as the adopted children of God (Eph. 1:5).

Because of his special role as foster-father of the Child Jesus, St. Joseph has merited singular privileges in heaven unmatched by any saint excepting the Blessed Virgin Mary. Certain saints have received special insight into his holiness and the wonderful power of his heavenly intercession.

MARGARET BURKE

Margaret Burke is an intelligent, gentle and a quiet achiever. She made everyone feel at ease and she was always smiling. Margaret is a valued member of Denistone Branch holding the position of president. She joined



Council as an Observer Councillor in 2010 and she “progressed through the ranks”, taking on the position of Councillor, WUCWO Co-Ordinator, CWL Vice President for 5 years, 12 months as Chair of the Finance Committee and any other position she was called on. She resigned for health reasons this year. Her help with all the finances was invaluable as she had a great maths brain! We remember Margaret with love and wish her every blessing for her future, especially with her health.



MAUREEN ARROW



Maureen Arrow was a valued member of our Sydney Council, joining as an Observer Councillor in 2010 and becoming a Councillor in 2011 until 2020.

Maureen was always happy and willing to help others. She was our go-to person when we need representation at functions, helping in any way she could.

She gave of herself at Strathfield and we miss her smiling, happy and dynamic personality. With Bernice and June by her side, she was an inspiration to us all. Maureen volunteered all her life for many causes and we were lucky that she belonged to our CWL Sydney Council.

NOREEN KEOGHAN

Noreen Keoghan. What can you say about a woman who devoted her life to CWL. Going back through our records, it is hard to find a date she began her CWL journey, as she has been with us for decades. Noreen had an infectious personality and there was nothing she would not do for CWL or her work at Marian Court. Noreen's contribution to Marian Court is immeasurable – she was Chairperson of the Board of Management for so many years, no one could remember a time before Noreen! She had a way with people and who could forget the amazing artists who she engaged for the Annual Christmas Luncheon at Burwood. Noreen never sought recognition for all her years of charitable works but in 2000 she was awarded the Dame of the Order of St Gregory the Great – a well-deserved award for an amazing woman.



TREASURED AND TRANSFORMED

If we are to hear the silent music beneath the noisy traffic of our thinking, We need to learn how to leave the mind and focus on the senses. The distractions of modern life prevent us picking up the rhythm of grace.

At a Metro Station in Washington DC a man started to play the violin. It was a cold January morning. He played Six Bach pieces for about forty-five minutes. During that rush hour it was calculated that thousands of people went through the Station.

After three minutes, a middle-aged man stopped for a few seconds and then hurried on. A minute later, the violinist received his first dollar tip – tossed in the box by a woman without slowing her stride. A few minutes later someone leaned over the wall to listen, but after looking at his watch began to walk quickly away. The one who paid the most attention was a three year old boy. His Mother hurried him along, but the child stopped in front of the violinist. Reluctantly the boy was dragged away, looking back all the time. During the forty-five minutes that the musician played, only six people stopped and stayed for a while. He collected \$32. When he finished playing and silence took over, no one applauded him or showed any sign of recognition. The violinist was Joshua Bell, one of the world's finest musicians. He had played some of the most intricate pieces ever written, with a violin worth \$3.5 million. The event was organized by THE WASHINGTON POST as part of a social experiment about perception, taste and priorities of people. The inherent questions were: in a common place environment in an appropriate hour, do we perceive beauty? Do we stop to appreciate it? Do we recognize talent in an unexpected context? One of the possible conclusions to be drawn from this bit of research might be put in another question. If we do not have a moment to stop and listen to one of the best musicians in the world playing the best music ever written, how many other things are we missing in the course of our normal day? Do we forget that our senses are the 'threshold of our soul'? "Listen, my child," St Benedict wrote at the beginning of his Rule, "with the ear of your heart".

**Excerpt from 'Treadsured and Transformed' by Daniel O'Leary
Inform submission from Rae Wales**

'WRAP WITH LOVE' BRANCH DAY



We had a lovely presentation from Lorraine Sutton who is the president of 'Wrap with Love'. The charity was started in 1992 with the idea to help as many people as possible by providing warm Wraps to ward off hypothermia and in the past 23 years they have sent more than 400,000 Wraps to people in over 75 countries, including Australia, with the help of our hardworking and generous volunteers.

Lorraine gave a lovely talk and brought in many of the blankets that had been carefully knitted by the volunteers. If you would like to volunteer or donate you can visit their website www.wrapwithlove.org.



NEWS AND DIARY DATES

If you have news from your branch, upcoming events, or interesting articles you'd like to share, please let us know - cwlsydney@sydneycatholic.org

CWL NOTICES

WEBISTE: We are happy to announce that our website can now process your membership fees.

UPCOMING EVENTS: WUCWO Day. 10:30am Mass in the chapel. Lunch \$20 with guest speaker Rachael Wong from Women's Forum Australia. Please RSVP.

BUY, SWAP & SELL: Next month in June we will have our annual buy, swap & sell. time to clear out your wardrobes of unused items, cook up some jam or chutney or knit a blanket or scarf to raise money towards a good cause. More information to follow.

Thank you to everyone who sent in articles for Inform - please continue to send them in as they are always helpful and wonderful to publish.

Submit to Inform!

Our next issue of *Inform* will be published in July and we would like to hear from our readers.

We are looking to feature more branch profiles. Please contact Rebeka in the office to share your branch stories and photos otherwise email at [**cwlsydney@sydneycatholic.org**](mailto:cwlsydney@sydneycatholic.org)

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

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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!

PLEASE NOTE: PAYMENT VIA BANK TRANSFER - COMING SOON!