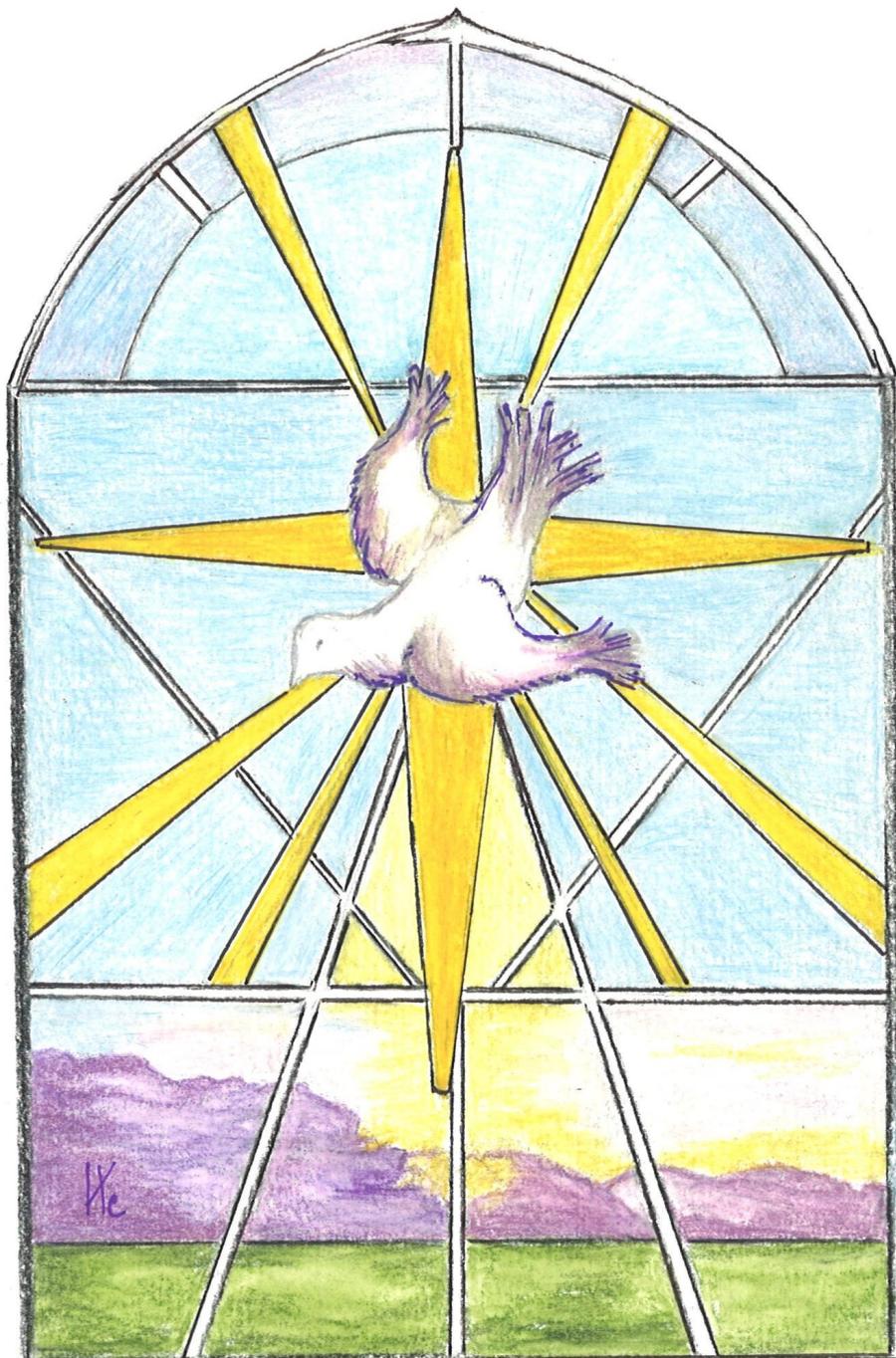


Inform

Catholic Women's League
Archdiocese of Sydney
Issue: 3/2018 June/July



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Father Ray's Message

The Church's proudest possession has always been the Eucharist, God's greatest gift to God's people. From the beginning Christians assembled in private homes and relived the last supper and communion was taken to those who could not come. The Mass and Holy Communion are almost as old as the Church itself. The custom developed of keeping hosts for Holy Communion somewhere safe so that they would be available to the priest or deacon in an emergency.

If you had attended a church in the tenth century you would notice the differences—no tabernacle, but a dove shaped container hanging over the altar. This was called a pyx. The Blessed Sacrament would be placed inside. Jesus is present, this is the body and blood of the risen and living Lord. Saint Thomas Aquinas wrote many hymns in praise of the real presence of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament, some of which are still sung today.

The custom of carrying the Blessed Sacrament in procession developed for the veneration of believers. This is part of what we do on Maundy Thursday evening. We take the Eucharist to the altar of repose, so there is a short procession. But the occasion is a sad one because Jesus is beginning his

passion. The Church launched the feast of Corpus Christi, "The most Holy Body and Blood of Christ". In many countries there are processions through the streets, with the Blessed Sacrament exposed in special casing called a monstrance.



In the tabernacle the Lord is alive and welcoming. The sanctuary lamp, which is always burning, is a sign of that. Christ invites us to come spend time with him. The tabernacle is for face to face encounter, and the face of the Lord is a challenging but also smiling face, an understanding and encouraging face, a forgiving face. If we have an hour of exposition, with the Eucharist displayed on the altar, it's a time of opportunity. Had we lived in Galilee or Jerusalem in the time of Jesus, we would have struggled to get anywhere near him, what with curious crowds and scores of sick people. And if we did get the chance to speak to him, after 30 seconds someone would have pushed us out of the way for their own chance. Here in the Eucharist we can have that quiet, prolonged, personal conversation that is the heard of all prayer. This feast is a day on which we can focus on the full beauty of this great gift that we are given. May we feel the gentle presence of Jesus, drawing us like a magnet to his company.

President's Report

It is June! How the year is flying — so much more to do.

Pentecost time; an exhilarating time. On Pentecost Sunday morning, I had an overwhelming desire to stay snuggled up in the warmth. Oh, the self indulgence of it! However I managed to get up, dressed, and to church on time, and feel the blessing of Pentecost: a time of affirmation of God's love, the presence of the Spirit in our lives. The great whoosh of the breath of the Spirit is a reminder of our helper, the Holy Spirit.

In your folders this month you will find details on the upcoming State Conference in Wollongong, including posters and registration forms.

Thank you, everyone, for the effort you are making towards promoting Catholic Women's League. I look forward to sharing many wonderful branch days, celebrations, fundraisers and more with you all.

God's blessing
Helen

Sydney News

WUCWO Mass and Celebrations

Our Annual WUCWO Day held on May 8 was a wonderful success. The day began with a special Mass by our CWL Sydney Chaplain Fr Ray Farrell and a delightful day followed.

The Guest Speaker, CWLA National International Secretary Madeleine Banister spoke about her time in New York at the United Nations and her passionate enthusiasm was a delight. Her PowerPoint presentation and talk were enjoyed by all.

We were fortunate enough to have guests from many different organisations join us for the day and they thoroughly enjoyed the inclusive, friendly energy of the day. Our visitors asked to be included in future functions, so we will be inviting them to our Annual Mass in August.

The meeting room looked lovely and the lunch went very well.

Thank you to Margaret Burke, Helen Cook, Maddie Er, Viki Pompor and others for helping make this a great day.

— *Chris McKirdy*

Walk With Christ

The morning of this year's Procession of the Blessed Sacrament "Walk With Christ" began with heavy rain and strong winds, so I thought we were in for our annual "soaking walk", but the Lord answered our prayers this time as the rain and wind stopped for the entire walk. Thank you Lord!

The crowd grew as we waited for the commencement holding the Catholic Women's League banner high to attract our members, and this year our banner attracted some very welcome inquiries about Catholic Women's League. God willing we may have a new member!

There were many beautiful banners as we headed off from Pitt Street and the crowd walked behind the Blessed Sacrament, a sight to behold. Young, old, walking, ambling some in wheelchairs, pushing walkers, pushing prams, carrying babies, leading children, our own 90 year old member walking all the way to the Cathedral. As we processed the crowd sang, recited prayers, prayed the Rosary and the Litany.

On reaching the Cathedral we took our places in the courtyard, prayed, sang, listened to Archbishop Fisher's meaningful Homily. The Homily centered on the significance of our walk with Christ in particular this year being the 200th anniversary of the Blessed Eucharist in Australia. He told the beautiful story of the Host being left behind by banned Father Jeremiah O'FLynn 200 years ago and being revered and protected in William Davis' house situated in Church

Hill where St. Patrick's stands today, the land having been donated to the church by Mr. Davis. The Host was guarded until a new priest was finally allowed to come to Australia.

The Homily was followed by Benediction and after the final hymn we all left for home, our faith having been buoyed by the prayerful, faithful thousands who had shared our faith.

— Viki Pompor

WUCWO

Monthly Witness for June

Extract from the WUCWO

Website www.wucwo.org

"Witness - Sister Mary Luke Tobin

*A member of the Sisters of Loretto, Sister Mary Luke Tobin is a catalyst for renewal in religious communities, a worker for peace and justice worldwide, a promoter of equality for women, a mentor of women and men of all faiths, and an advocate for their empowerment. She was one of only 15 women worldwide to be invited to the Second Vatican Council in Rome. She has travelled and stood with others in Northern Ireland, El Salvador, California, Colorado, and Washington, DC, on behalf of various issues and struggles. Tobin visited Saigon in 1970 to promote peace in Vietnam. She also participated in international hearings on disarmament in Amsterdam. In 1993 she joined a delegation that studied the rise of neo-Nazism in Germany. Tobin has recorded her experiences in the book *Hope is an Open Door* and in numerous periodical articles."*



Jean Arnot Luncheon

42 CWL members, friends and family attended the Jean Arnot lunch on the 21st May 2018. 25 from CWL Sydney, 7 from CWL Bathurst, 6 from CWL Broken Bay and 4 from CWL Wollongong. Nominees from Sydney: Vicki Graham – Diocesan member, Merryl Foster & Margaret Naylor from Ryde/Gladesville, Shirley Caves from Summer Hill, and Sheila Aviet from Fairfield; from Bathurst Pat Okon & Moira Murane; from Broken Bay Maureen Holmes; from Wollongong Joan Roberts.

The ladies stories are inspirational and the work they have done (and are still doing) for the Church and community is phenomenal. This year the ladies were presented with their certificates in the dining room - much more inclusive as previously the certificates were presented before lunch in the presence of only the nominees and nominators. —Sally Fennell



Awardee Merryl Foster with Beth Kosnik



Anne Wells with Awardee Shirley Caves



Helen Cook with Awardee Helen Victoria Graham



Awardee Margaret Naylor with Beth Kosnik



Sandra Skarsky with Awardee Sheila Aviet

Branch News

If your branch has an up coming event or any exciting news to share, please let us know! Email cwlsydney@sydneycatholic.org Phone: 9307 8383 Address: 133 Liverpool St Sydney 2000



OATLEY

The ladies at Oatley branch have been supporting a community in Fiji over the years, providing them with the means to help out those in need. In particular, the money they raise goes towards the educations of local school students—helping buy school supplies, uniforms, and helping with their tuition fees. The Oatley ladies receive regular updates on where their money goes and how it helps individual people. What a great initiative!

The Women's League helped this boy Financially in his Studies. Now he had graduated from FNU National University.

Thanks a lot for your great help.

Australian Church Women Dedication Day

On Thursday, 31st May, 2018, I attended the ACW Dedication Day Service where Peg McEntee was installed as President of Australian Church Women for the next two years. The Service was held at the St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Wollongong, in the presence of the Bishop of Wollongong, Most Reverend Brian Mascord, Bishop Emeritus of Wollongong, Most Reverend Peter Ingham, Father Ron Peters, Dean of Cathedral, and Father Patrick Vaughan, Chaplain, Catholic Women's League Diocese of Wollongong, and distinguished guests, including many of Peg's family and friends. CWL was well represented with members from many branches, as well as State President, Ann Pereira. The St. Francis Xavier Cathedral is a lovely Church, built in the old style; quite beautiful.

Recognition was given to Pamela Freeman, retiring President of ACW for her spiritual leadership and fellowship during the past two years. Pamela has been a staunch member of ACW for many years and has managed, during her time as President, to show support and strength on many occasions, even when personal ill health was a problem. A lovely dedicated lady of the Salvation Army, whose knowledge of the scriptures, and presentation of devotions at council meetings was a real inspiration.

Peg has chosen, as the Theme for her Presidency: 'Bearers of Christ's Love.' This will be ACW's theme for the ensuing two years.

It was a lovely Service for a lovely lady, held in true fellowship, across all denominations. A moving and spiritually uplifting time spent together. Lunch was well catered and enjoyable, giving everyone a chance to catch up, relax and chat.

— Tex Quirk

We are sad to inform everyone that our dear friend **Mary Cantrall** has passed away.

Many would remember Mary as a vibrant and fun woman, always there to help those who needed it. As a Councillor, Mary was involved in everything CWL—attending and organising events, supporting all the different CWL projects, and helping to make the branch gatherings memorable by dressing up, baking and preparing delicious food, and sometimes even performing! We are sure many people have wonderful memories of Mary!

We keep her family in our prayers, especially her daughter Anne Maree, who is a CWL Sydney Councillor and friend to many of us at CWL.



DIARY DATES

Tuesday 10 July: POY Fundraiser Cool and Cosy winter cafe theme—dress in red or tartan! Guest Speaker Lee Tredinnick on the Battle of Bretonneux

Tuesday 14 August: Annual Mass and Luncheon with baked dinner. Guest speaker Ashleigh Green on Youth in our church

Tuesday 11 September: Spring Carnival Day—wear your fascinators!

**BECOME A MEMBER OF CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE
ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY TODAY!**

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Cost: \$25 for Branch Members, \$30 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 \$25 or \$30 to:

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View Inform in full colour on our website under "Newsletters".

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