

I N F O R M

*Catholic Women's League Archdiocese of Sydney
November/December 2021*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What a joy it is to be (almost) free of the COVID restrictions. Thanks be to God.

Our special appeal for the project of the year has raised \$13,225.00, what a marvellous result. Donations from our generous members and branches totalled \$4155.00, thank you. In addition, we received \$6,500.00 from InvoCare Austral, a wonderful gesture indeed.

We held our first Council meeting for many months on 9th November. It was great to get together and catch up on all the news. The Council approved the establishment of a 2-year scholarship costing \$15,000.00 to support a Catholic girl from a low socio-economic family through school years 11 and 12. This project will be co-ordinated through Delaney College at Granville, a school we have had previous dealings with.

A project of the year 4 years ago donated \$14,000.00 to Bourke Parish to be applied for structural work on the Engonea Church. That work could not be undertaken and the Vicar General of Wilcannia Forbes Diocese, Fr Don Gunn, asked if these funds could be applied for urgent and essential repairs to the Bourke Presbytery. The Council approved that work variation.

We have been fortunate that with expert advice and action by our Solicitors, and with mitigation agreement of Sue Haliday, we have recovered all of the money misappropriated from Marian Court. After all legal and other expenses were paid we received \$597,337.12.

This has enabled funding for the school scholarship project and will be available for future CWL projects.

Because of the COVID situation the Council has decided it is not practical to hold elections this year and has confirmed available Executive office holders with the exemption of Sally Fennell, in their respective positions for 2022.

Jay Turner was appointed WUCWO International Secretary in place of Sally Fennell who could not stand because she has joined CWL National as Secretary. A special thank you to Sally who has worked tirelessly for CWL Sydney in many roles over very many years.

We have decided that, subject to COVID restrictions, our opening Mass and catered luncheon will be held on 8th February 2022. The cost of lunch will be \$30.00 per head. More information mid-January.

On a sad note, God has taken to himself Pete Quirk (husband of Tex) and Bryan Chester (husband of Loretta). Our sincere condolences to Tex and Loretta. Please keep our sick and deceased members and their families in your prayers.

I wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas, with good health and much happiness throughout the Christmas season.

God bless,
Margaret Blomfield
President

Patricia Joan Ambrose 17-10-1935 - 23-10-2020

Pat was dearly remembered on the 23rd of September 2021. Father Kim conducted a Mass for Pat at her beloved church, St Joseph's Enfield.

Due to various lockdowns over the past year Pat has not been able to be interred with her mother, Ivy. This will hopefully take place late this year or in January.

At that stage, Father Kim and the choir at St Josephs will be asked to help out with a Mass in memoriam for Pat. Information to be announced. Those that wish to attend are welcome.

In acknowledgement of Pat's life caring for others in both her nursing and within the community, Pat's original nursing and teaching certificates (containing original sketches of the various hospitals Pat worked at), awards, medallions and badges, as well as many photos of her early nursing days, were given to The Australian College of Nursing.

Pat joined CWL Enfield in 1996. She became a regional councillor for the western region and a councillor for the Sydney Archdiocese. She held the positions of general secretary, secretary and president throughout her years. Pat thoroughly enjoyed her time with CWL and in her words, she found the friendships and companionship without equal.

I have uploaded Pats funeral service to youtube should anyone wish to view it and/ or the presentation contained. Please find these links below.

Service: <https://youtu.be/cX6hXK4pP1c>

Presentation: <https://youtu.be/NNHbfpV9eJU>

THANK YOU!



SALLY FENNEL

Sally joined the executive approximately 15 years ago and has served on the executive under many different roles. Sally is moving onto the National executive next year but will remain as a councilor for Sydney. We thank Sally for her many years of service and we wish her all the best with the next 3 years with CWL National.

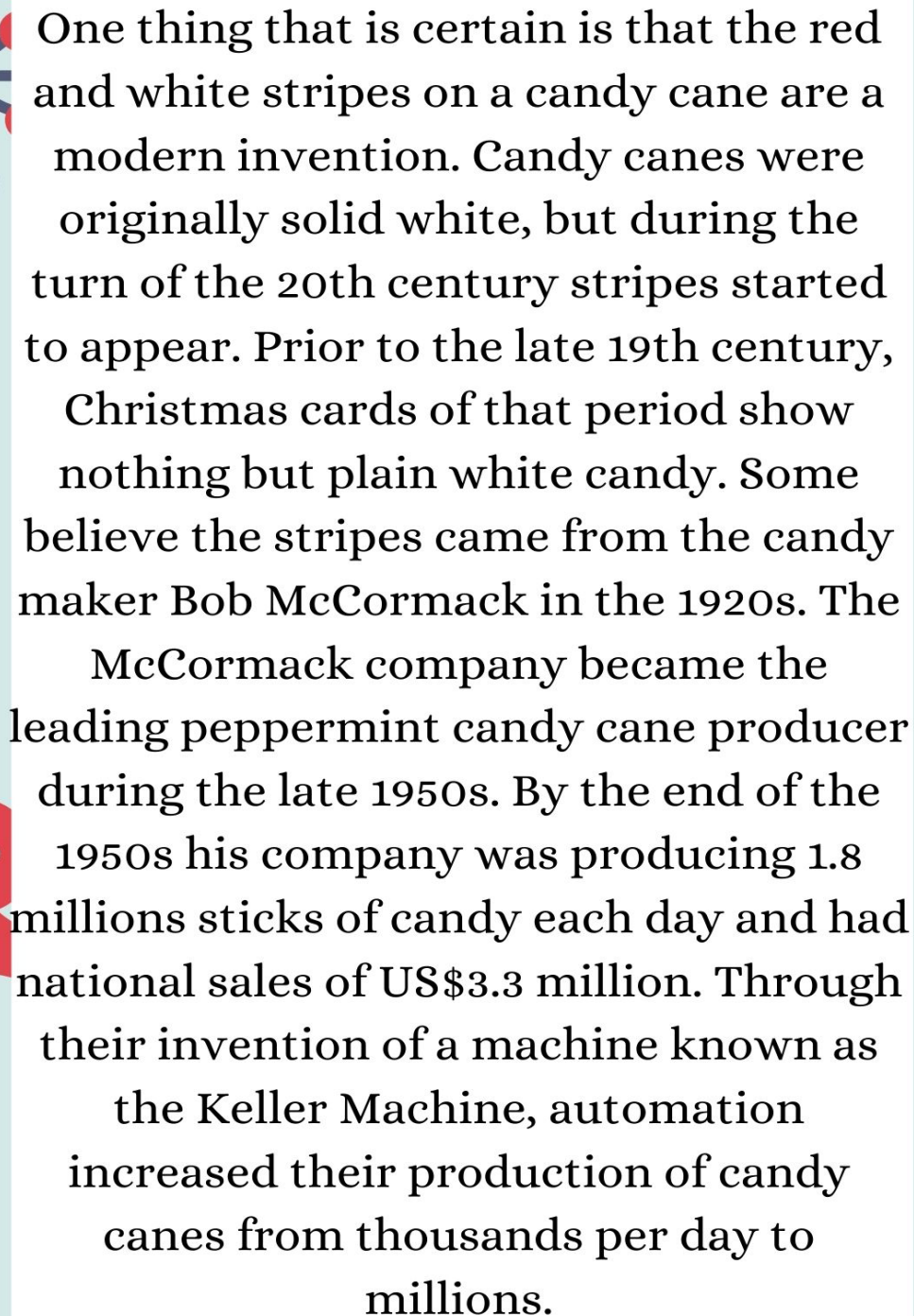
A Christmas Legend

There's some mystery surrounding the origins of candy canes because there are no exact records of their invention. One well-regarded story suggests that in 1670, a choirmaster in Cologne, Germany, gave out sugar sticks to the children as a way to soothe them during the long nativity ceremony.

★ The choirmaster asked a local candy maker for the sugar sticks to be turned into a hook so they resemble the shape of a shepherd's staff. Shepherds are common symbols in the Christian faith and can be seen in the Christian story of the birth of Christ. ★

★ An alternative theory suggests the hook was invented simply to make the candy sticks easier to hang on Christmas trees. ★

★ These, however, are folktales with little evidence to back them up. The first documented case of candy canes occurred in 1847 when a German-Swedish immigrant named August Imgard of Wooster, Ohio, decorated a small blue spruce tree with the candy. ★



One thing that is certain is that the red and white stripes on a candy cane are a modern invention. Candy canes were originally solid white, but during the turn of the 20th century stripes started to appear. Prior to the late 19th century, Christmas cards of that period show nothing but plain white candy. Some believe the stripes came from the candy maker Bob McCormack in the 1920s. The McCormack company became the leading peppermint candy cane producer during the late 1950s. By the end of the 1950s his company was producing 1.8 millions sticks of candy each day and had national sales of US\$3.3 million. Through their invention of a machine known as the Keller Machine, automation increased their production of candy canes from thousands per day to millions.

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Dear Members of the CWL,

First, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very blessed, holy, and joy-filled Christmas. It has been another testing and trying year for all of us. Please God, as we now turn our minds to the greatest mystery of human history, the Incarnation of God as man, we can draw new hope for the future. For, as St Thomas Aquinas once said, “there is nothing that can be thought of that is more marvellous than this divine accomplishment: that the true God, the son of God, should become true man.” If this is the case – which it most certainly is – then, nothing else can be a greater source of hope — hope for ourselves and hope for the future of the CWL.

It can be hard to focus our minds and hearts upon the Incarnation, in the same way many of us likely find it hard to focus our minds and hearts at Mass. Because the sad reality is that many people measure the value of something by its ability to “entertain us”; “distract us”; “make us feel alive...” And so, our culture – with few exceptions – recoils from the idea of the Incarnation (and the Eucharist) because these, the greatest events in human history, happen in silence. Silence within our culture is synonymous with emptiness and with boredom. Whereas noise and activity, fun and frivolity, are equated with life. Hence, we find people are continually needing to be “logged in” to the world of technology; distracted by loud music and social media — as if they are afraid to be silent and still and confront the emptiness of life.

Christ enters our world in silence — God comes to us in silence. Jesus does this deliberately because it is precisely the loneliness, the emptiness, and the meaningless of a world without faith that Christ wants to redeem; to give us all hope. Silence thus becomes full of meaning in Jesus.

For Catholics, then, it is in silence that we actually discover true hope — And, of course, that’s not to say words are not important for us (they really are). The point is that our words are never enough. May I encourage all of you, then, amidst the busyness and freneticism of this season, to find time for silence and stillness. For, as I said, this is where you and I will find new hope, new meaning, and new purpose both in our own lives but also for the CWL. I really hope this new year of grace, 2022, can finally be a time for us to begin to reimagine and reinvigorate this wonderful organisation. But silence and stillness is where the greatest things begin...

Fr Gregory Morgan
Chaplain



Installed at Marian Court under a newly planted Magnolia tree on 27th October 2021



**IN MEMORY OF BRIAN
MCNALLY 3RD JANUARY-
1931 - 27TH AUGUST 2021
RESIDENT OF MARIAN
COURT FOR 13 YEARS
RESIDENTS COMMITTEE
2009-2021
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
2013- 2020**





CWL Opening Mass

08.02.22 | TUESDAY | 10:30AM

**GUEST SPEAKER
CATERED LUNCH \$30PP
RSVP 1ST FEB
02 9307 8383**

CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS

Gift Giving

The practice of gift giving began during Saturnalia, the pagan Roman winter solstice festival. When the custom of gift giving was Christianised, people believed it related to the gifts of gold frankincense and myrrh, that the Three Wise Men had brought to the newborn Jesus Christ.

Santa Claus

St. Nicholas, the real Santa Claus, was born in Turkey around 280 AD. He was a bishop, who had a long white beard and wore a red cloak and mitre. He was renowned throughout Europe, for helping the poor and giving gifts to people in need. After the reformation in England, stories and traditions of St. Nicholas were banned. So he became Father Christmas, in the UK, Kris Kringle in America and the Christkind, symbolising the new born baby Jesus, in Austria and Germany.

In Holland, however, the stories and traditions associated with St. Nicholas, remained strong, so when the early Dutch settlers arrived in the United States, they brought their venerated old bishop with them and over time, the Christkind, Kris Kringle and Saint-Nicolaas, became Sinterklaas, or as we call him today, Santa Claus

Tinsel

One legend, tells of a poor family, whose Christmas tree was covered in cobwebs by spiders while they slept. On the day before Christmas, Jesus visited the family, blest the tree, and turned the webs into strips of silver. In the early 1600's, tinsel made from real silver, which had been pressed into fine strips, was invented in Germany. Today, instead of tinsel, strands of popcorn or paper chains are often used to decorate Christmas trees.

BRANCH NEWS AND DIARY DATES

*We love hearing about the happenings of our Branches.
If your branch has an upcoming event or any exciting news to
share, please let us know!*

Announcements:

- Fee's are due for next year. \$35 for branch members and \$40 Diocesan.

Thank you to all who have donated to our project of the year.
Here are some recent donations received for 2021/22 Order
of Malta Community Van

Chris McKirdy, Sally Fennell, Sandra Skarsky, Viki Pompor, Tex Quirk, Margaret Blomfield, Enfield Branch, Marian Wilson, Margaret Bouffler, Kathryn Wojcicki, Jenny Haynes, Sheila Aviet, Judith Reid, Anonymous, Merle Smith, Ryde Branch, Eleanor McDonald, Peakhurst Branch, Annette Rowley, Pat Castellan, Concord West Branch, Marion Ryan, Jay Turner, Sybille Duane, Pat and Jennifer Toohey, Teresa Wong, Maria Di Giantommaso, Yolanda Tolhurst, Jeannette O'Hara, Bernadette Costantine, Trish Leckie, Anonymous, Pat Percival, Pat Smith, Anne Williams, Five Dock Branch, Christine Frugtniet, Fairfield Branch.

Total raised for the Order of Malta van is\$4155.00

What do you call
Santa Claus when
he doesn't move?



Santa Pause

What did the cow
get for Christmas?



A COWculator!

Why is it always
cold at Christmas?



Because it's
Decemberrrrrrrrr!

What do elves learn
in school?



The elf-abet.

What's Santa's
favorite candy?



Jolly Ranchers!

What did the
Gingerbread Man
put on his bed?



A cookie sheet!

Template by KindOverMatter.com

printable by themotherhuddle.com

What's red and white,
red and white,
red and white?



Santa Claus rolling
down a hill.

What do you call a
snowman in the
summer?



A puddle!

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

MEMBERSHIP FORM
Cost: \$40 for Diocesan Members

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE: _____

MOBILE: _____

EMAIL: _____

I am willing to receive information by email: YES/NO

Please return with remittance of \$40 with a completed form to:

Catholic Women's League Archdiocese of Sydney
Lvl 8, 133 Liverpool St, Sydney 2000

Direct Debit BSB 062784 A/c 100012612. Ref. your surname.
Following payment please email completed form to:
cwlsydney@sydneycatholic.org

Ph: 9307 8383

Email: cwlsydney@sydneycatholic.org

Enquiries (Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday)

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*