



CWL Review volume 58 No 1

February/March 2018

**“Be Merciful just as the
Father is Merciful”**



President's Message

Happy New Year to all my lovely CWL friends and May 2018 bring every blessing to you and your families.

My New Year wish is that we make every effort to increase membership - even if each branch could encourage only one new member, which is a start. Perhaps we could hold a social get together of some type in each branch, maybe a lunch or afternoon tea. We really must not lose any more branches.

Our executive have enjoyed attending your meetings during 2017 and do hope you will continue to invite us again this year to rekindle our friendships.

We are fortunate to have our lovely Anima girls involved and I encourage us all to get together whenever possible.

May God grant us health and strength to fulfil our many hopes for the future of our wonderful Catholic Women's League.

May God be glorified in all we do.

Deirdre Reid

Apologies

Apologies from the Review publication team for the delays with this edition, the holidays and back to school preparations have commandeered our lives this month. We thank you for your patience. The good news is the next Review is not too far off and articles are due for the April/May Review will be due 15th of March.

God Bless,
Anna and Kazia.

Jokes;

Q: What gets wetter the more it dries?

A: A towel!

Q: What do you call an alligator wearing a vest?

A: An investigator!

State Secretary

Catholic Women's League Tasmania Inc. (CWL Tas.) was established in 1936 to promote the spiritual, cultural and social development of women, and their participation in church, social and public life. CWL Tas. Is affiliated with Catholic Women's League Australia (CWLA) whose reach goes beyond Australia with representation as an accredited NGO at the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC). Catholic Women's League Tasmania Inc. lists among its objects:

To promote the right and facilitate the duty of Catholic women to acquire a knowledge of Christian teaching.

To uphold the dignity of women and promote their participation in social and public life

It is with concern that we find that Australian law fails to protect our right to acquire a knowledge of Christian teaching and to practice and explain the Faith in public. We therefore welcome the opportunity to participate in the Religious Freedom Review.

The ability of Christians to practice and explain their Faith in public should be enshrined in legislation. We submit this case under the following headings:

1. Clash between the right to religious freedom and anti-discrimination laws
2. Value and importance of the Christian religion to the individual. Parental rights
3. Value and importance of the Christian religion to Australian civil society.

Clash between the right to religious freedom and anti-discrimination laws

Tasmanian anti-discrimination legislation initially focused on discrimination on the grounds of sex, marital status and pregnancy. The principle purpose was to act as a lever to secure and protect women's rights in the workplace. Subsequently, the legislation has been broadened, with the result that it has become a weapon used by some to limit, even deny, the right to freedom of speech, conscience and religion. We watched in disbelief as Archbishop Julian Porteous, Archbishop of Hobart, was summoned by the Anti-Discrimination Commissioner to defend fulfilling the centuries old responsibility of a bishop: teaching, governing, and sanctifying the faithful of his diocese. The action has been withdrawn, with no resolution determined.

The Australian Constitution stipulates there should be freedom of religion, and Australia is a signatory to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, ICCPR): *Article 18. 1. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion.*

Yet though the Australian Human Rights Commission has powers to investigate alleged violations of the ICCPR, it lacks powers of penalty or enforcement.

What is needed is national legislation that implements these obligations. In the meantime, the blunt instrument of anti-discrimination law is being used against religious freedom rights. This is at odds with the fact that Judeo-Christian ethics and morality are intrinsic to Australia's legal system and institutions. It is interesting to note that at the swearing in of the Turnbull government in 2016, all but two swore The Oath on the Bible.

Value and importance of religion to us as individuals

As Catholic women we hold our Christian faith to be of the greatest importance, the centrepiece of our lives, the basis for our understanding of the meaning and purpose of human life. We claim the right not only to practice our faith in freedom, but also to live out our faith in public, and teach the faith to our children and grandchildren.

Parental Rights

Parents are the principle carers of their children, so we also claim the right and freedom to determine whether our children are introduced to radical social agendas at school e.g. gender fluidity.

We reject the notion that the State should have the power to limit these freedoms.

Value and importance of the Christian religion to Australian civil society

- From earliest European settlement, Catholic nuns came from Ireland, United Kingdom and Europe, working among the convicts and the homeless. In cities, country towns and the outback, they established free schools for poor children of all faiths and none and cared for aboriginal people. They cared for orphans, alcoholics and men and women in prison. They have established hospitals, hospices, Australia's first AIDS clinic, research institutes and aged care facilities. A large amount of Australia's medical research is carried out in Catholic institutions.
- St Vincent de Paul is now the largest and most extensive welfare network with over 18000 members and over 30,000 volunteers.
- There are 8 dedicated hospices and palliative care services, 77 hospitals (10,500 beds), 550 residential aged care facilities and over 5000 retirement and independent living units and serviced apartments.
- Australian Catholic University produces the largest number of nursing and teaching graduates in Australia.
- Notre Dame Australia regularly wins the Kullari NAIDOC Award for the most successful university in indigenous graduations.

Worldwide,

- The basic principles underlying Medecins sans Frontières Red Cross, Alcoholics Anonymous and Missions to Seafarers have their genesis in those of the Christian faith.
- Catholic Health Care workers, many as volunteers, serve the sick, poor and abandoned, in 151 countries.

- Caritas, the welfare arm of the Catholic Church, present in all countries, is second only in size to the Red Cross.
- The Catholic Church is the largest provider of trained personnel for the Third World, ahead of Australian Volunteers Abroad and Care Australia

Continuation of these vital works of mercy at home and abroad depends on the unencumbered freedom and the resources to carry them out.

We submit that Australian law fails to protect the human right to freedom of religion, and we urge the Expert Panel on Religious Freedom to recommend:

that the ability of Christians to practice and explain their Faith in public should be enshrined in legislation.

Judy Gibbens, State Secretary

Reminder - for your diary...

Please note the date for the next CWL State Conference:

Date: Wed to Friday, 29th to 31st August.

Venue: Nell Pasco centre, Mather's lane (or 108 Bathurst street).

Reminder

Subs are due prior to the May AGM and please spread the word to those who you think haven't paid subs and may be missing out on receiving the Review.



"It's very inflamed. Why don't you take a vow of silence for a few days?"

February Reflection

I came across this small statement by an unknown author and realised that it spoke to me as I thought about the year we have begun.

**A strong woman knows she has strength enough for the journey,
but a woman of strength knows it is in the journey
where she will become strong.**

Where will our journey take us this year? Ours is not the task of fixing the entire world at once, but of stretching out to mend the part of the world that is within our reach. Any small, calm thing that one soul can do to help another soul to assist some portion of this poor suffering world will help immensely. It is not given to us to know which acts, or by whom, will cause the critical mass to tip towards an enduring good. (Clarissa Pinkola Estes, Author of **Women Who Run With Wolves**)

On our journey there will be times when we feel discouraged, but Jesus has put us here in this place and at this time. He gives us people to care for and encourage. Depending on Him we will become strong.

What are the small things I can do here in my place?

Who are the people who encourage me to be strong?

March Reflection

The Season of Lent

Amongst the Christians of the Eastern Orthodox Churches, Lent is referred to as The Season of Bright Sadness. This title provides a way of reflecting on the sad truth of our humanity, our sin and unworthiness, but at the same time keeps our minds fixed on preparation for the greatest feast of our tradition: Easter.

We cannot deny the sinfulness of humankind both individually and collectively. Within ourselves there is the constant tension between good and evil and the need for our admission of guilt and the seeking of mercy and forgiveness. These gifts have already been given to us by the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, so during Lent we reflect on this great truth, at the same time expressing our personal need for a change of heart.

We all share in the collective guilt of our world. The plight of our brothers and sisters in war torn areas, in refugee situations and in areas of disgusting poverty is our concern. Our reflection on this and our need to respond in some way could well be our personal response during this Lenten Season.

It is hard to imagine an Easter celebration for these people.

How could I respond even in a small way?

What do I hear Pope Francis saying to us?

Pamela Davis OP

From the Southern Vice President

Church

I went to church the other day,
But the door was locked, sorry to say.
So I walked away and thought for a while,
And the thought that I had made me smile.

I realised a lock can't keep us apart,
Because I carry God always in my heart,
I don't need a church to say a prayer,
I can talk to God anywhere.

I can tell Him my worries,
My fears and my woes.
I can tell Him of good times,
He would like to hear those.

The tabernacle light burns red and bright,
But God burns in my heart every day and night.
So the lock on the door needn't keep us apart,
If I carry God carefully, close to my heart.

Roseanne Way

Miracles Happen

A good friend who is struggling with depression and felt abandoned by God for many years, heard the story of Jesus calming the storm and seeing things in a new light, realised that Jesus is always there. He then identified with the Apostles in the boat and learned again to fully trust in God.

So for all the storms we have at one time or other raging in our lives, I have included The Surrender Prayer pamphlets.



In Memoriam

To Bernice McKenna and Family we extend our sincere condolences on the death of Anthony Thomas McKenna who passed away on 28th December 2017.

Northern Vice-President

By the time you read my report we will be well into the second month of the year. Holidays and their sometimes-wonderful distractions have come and gone and everyone I have spoken to recently now seems ready to tackle another year. At least we can approach it now with slightly cooler weather!

Before we get very far into the year's planned activities and/or projects, Lent will have started and we will be on our way to the celebration that is the core of our faith life – Easter. So I hope everyone will be able to put a bit of time aside and make themselves Easter-ready, taking a few moments each day to reflect on how we can give a little of ourselves in service to our Lord and then act on it.

In January, it was wonderful to take up the offer of John Taylor (husband of Jenny, President of George Town,) to drive us south to St John's, Richmond to visit the baby memorial. We collected a busload of passengers from George Town and various parts of Launceston to travel with us. Not all came to St John's Church but those who did were touched by the beautiful monument and delighted to share a tasty meal with Southern branches and some of St John's parishioners. Unfortunately we did not make it in time for Mass, but it was certainly a pleasure to catch up with everyone and then spend some time admiring and reflecting on the memorial. I would like to pass on our thanks to Jenny for enabling this visit, to John for his generosity in getting us there and to the ladies of the South for their generous and friendly hospitality.

We have not yet started our 2018 meetings, but already, some branches are considering what actions we can take this year. Launceston have considered putting together a pack to be distributed to returned servicemen who are doing it tough. More will be announced when final decisions are made.

Both Launceston and George Town branches contributed to local schools for prize giving ceremonies at the end of last year: A certificate and money prize, the Marie Dunn Memorial Award, was presented to a Sacred Heart Primary School year six student who showed awareness of faith through their actions and treatment of others, and George Town's prize to a Star of the Sea College student was for Christian Leadership. Both branches received invitations to the schools' presentation awards where they received a special welcome and thanks.

I have been in contact with St Leonards and Jose Verhoeven has asked if we can all say prayers for member, Stephanie Fedyk whose health is not so good. They have not had a meeting for some time due to members' failing health but they are "hanging in there" and would like to remain members of the League and keep in touch with what we are doing.

I would like to pass on condolences from all Northern branch members to Bernice McKenna, whose husband, Tony, passed away at the end of last year. Tony was a wonderful gentleman and a tireless supporter of C.W.L. Rest in peace, Tony.

Wishing everyone good health and strength to do what needs to be done in the name of Catholic Women's League for 2018 and a multitude of blessings to help you through.

Wendy Fittler

Social Issues and Bioethics Committee

Dr Deidre Little, CWL National Bioethics Convenor, has been a diplomat member of RANZCOG (The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists) since 1984, and practiced rural obstetrics continuously for 25 years at Bellinger River Hospital.

This is part of Dr Little's speech given at the CWLA 48th Biennial Conference 2017 in Adelaide:

"The essence of bioethics is the dignity of our body and soul. It cannot be taken away by sickness or appearance, or by a diagnosis or by dependency. It lives in us. It is ours. God made us and loves us. Like Himself he has made us - in His image and likeness. Others' view of illness cannot touch our dignity.

The rapid deluge of legislative proposals which required our defence of life in the last two years has required us to work collaboratively together as convenors, and to work with and assist the member organisations as requested. This harnessed both aspects of our work. Informing Catholic women to equip, empower and encourage input to social debate and conversation; to have direct input to legislative considerations through letters and submissions; and to approach professional bodies where appropriate.

The life-demeaning issues rotate prominence in Australia from year to year. During the last two years the swelling advocacy for euthanasia has been obvious. No longer a fringe group led by extremists, it has become a familiar topic championed by celebrities. Legislative proposals have cropped up in SA (defeated), NSW, Tasmania, WA and Victoria. Increasingly, Catholics are being told to stand down. Shut up. Keep out. Don't debate. That's how powerful Catholic reasoning and teaching are seen to be. First Andrew Denton was afraid of us, then Penny Wong. Abortion law reform was raised in several parliaments. Demand for same-sex partnerships to be given marriage status legislatively is a natural contradiction, which has seen violence unleashed in the name of love.

Gender ideology is surging recklessly into school curricula and into our children's and teen's minds. Femininity and masculinity are parodied while feminism is all but asleep. Clothes, cosmetics and chemical hormones, breasts and surgery are apparently able to create womanhood. Male and female He has made them. While our battles are within our own borders, developed countries battle on many fronts with surrogacy exploitation and pharmacological targeting for barrenness. For the most part they hold firmly to life, showing a courage and confidence which stands up at the United Nations and doesn't readily trade away its values."

Dr Little wrote a letter to Professor Steven Robson, President of RANZCOG, after he stated his approval for abortion by any means, and by any person, throughout pregnancy and during labour, while supporting the Mehreen Faruqi Abortion Law Reform Bill 2016. Here are some of Dr Little's points to him:

1. Since most RANZCOG membership was not consulted regarding these proposed parliamentary Bills, your statement is not a RANZCOG representative statement.
2. As diplomates and fellows RANZCOG we each have responsibility for the wellbeing of the mother and child under our care. We have a duty of care to be informed of current research, to observe evidence-based medicine and to deliver therapeutic health care to the best of our ability. Our work is not political, but conscientious and uncompromising in its efforts to safeguard and improve the health of mother and child. That accords with the ethos of medicine.
3. Issuing RANZCOG political endorsement of this Greens Bill is not RANZCOG policy. There is no compulsory referral to abortion providers in RANZCOG policy; there is no restriction or curtailment of freedom of conscience in RANZCOG policy or code of ethics; and there is no approval for non-medical persons to perform abortions in prior RANZCOG statements. You have stated Collegiate approval of abortion up until the day of birth which is not founded on the views of College membership.
4. There is no evidence that abortion promotes health for women.

It is very sad that the President of such a prestigious college needs to be reminded of human value and the real duty of care.

The Good We Rarely Tell Anyone.

- Largest non-Government employer in Australia: at least 222,000, of which 165,750 are women (75%). Third largest employer in Australian: Westfarmers, Woolworths, the Catholic Church, BHP, Rio Tinto, NAB, CBA, Westpac and ANZ.
- 777,000 school children in the Catholic sector
- 1,710 schools:
 - 1,239 primary schools
 - 350 secondary schools
 - 95 primary/secondary schools combined
 - 17 special schools
- 87,000 staff
 - 55,287 lay teachers and specialist staff
 - 70% of all teachers and 45% of all Principals are women
 - 26,348 general staff
 - 365 Religious
- There are at least 3,645 volunteer catechists in Australia
- ACU is the fastest growing, truly national university with 25,678 students, producing the largest number of nursing and teaching graduates in Australia

- Notre Dame Australia, 10,960 students and keeps winning the Kullari NAIDOC Award for the most successful University in Indigenous graduations
- 77 hospitals - 10,500 beds (12% of all hospital beds)
- 23,200 residential aged care beds in 550 facilities
- 5393 retirement and independent living units and serviced apartments
- 8 dedicated hospices with palliative care services
- 20% of all medical research is done at the St V's or Mercy Healthcare Research Institutes
- Largest welfare provider outside Government
 - 52 member organisations
 - 12,600 employees
 - 500 different services
 - 1.1 million clients were cared for in 2016
- SVDP is the largest and most extensive volunteer welfare network in the country, with 18,209 members and 30,910 volunteers
- Largest provider of trained personnel for the Third World and then AVA and Care Australia
- *Caritas Australia* raised \$30 million for the poor in 2016
- *Caritas Mission* raised \$12 million for the poor in 2016
- Cathnews.com is the most visited religious website in the country
- *Australian Catholics*, now in its 16th year of publication, sells 200,000 copies per edition (five times a year)
- There are 1321 parishes, including 29 belonging to Eastern Catholic Churches, serving 5.29 million Catholics, of which 662,376 Catholics worship every Sunday (12.2%), which means we could fill the MCG seven times every Sunday with Mass-goers. 92,334 were 13-18 year olds. In 1996 there were 764,310 Mass-goers, we are losing an average of 4827 per year
- 3,100 priests in Australia; average age: 68.9
- Worldwide numbers are booming; 1.2 billion
- Martyrs are still dying for the faith we hold and the justice we live

Compiled by Rev Dr Richard Leonard SJ.

Anna Matuszek

I would like to thank Liz, Suzanne and Louise at the Cathedral office for their invaluable help with printing the Review.

Anna.

WANTED

FOR THE CWL CONFERENCE - HAND CRAFTED ITEMS
DISPLAY

HAND CRAFTED KEEPSAKES - OWNED NOT NECESSARILY
MADE BY MEMBERS

PLEASE ATTACH YOUR NAME AND A BRIEF HISTORY TO
YOUR ITEM.

YOU CAN LEAVE YOUR ITEMS AT 108 BATHURST ST
BEFORE 29TH AUGUST



**“I know you’re doing this just to stall so
there won’t be enough time to stop at
the craft fair on the way home!”**

Available for purchase Roseanne Way’s publication – My Spiritual Road, A collection of poems. Copies may be purchased from Southern Vice President, Roseanne Way at \$5 per copy. Phone: 0407 310816.

LIST OF STATE EXECUTIVE

State President

Mrs Deirdre Reid
77 William St
Brighton 7030
Ph 6268 0907
deirdrereid77@outlook.com

State Secretary

Mrs Judith Gibbens
5 Horfield Crt.
Bagdad 7030
Ph. 6268 6026
judithgibbens@gmail.com

State Treasurer

Mrs Jan Lawler
65 Main Rd.
Sorell 7172
Ph. 6265 2321
anne.sutcliffe2@bigpond.com

Southern Vice-President

Mrs Roseanne Way
6 Raminea Rd.
Lindisfarne 7015
Ph. 0407 310 816

Northern Vice-President

Mrs Wendy Fittler
14 Burnett St.
George Town 7253
Ph. 6382 1816
wfittler@bigpond.com

International Secretary

Mrs Mary Walsh
18 Toogood Drive Fairway Rise
Lindisfarne 7015
Ph 6246 7277
mary.walsh971@gmail.com

Immediate Past President

Mrs Sandra Harvey
65b Jetty Rd. Old Beach 7017
Ph. 6249 5504
harveysandra@exemail.com.au

SPECIAL OFFICERS

Social Issues and Bioethics Convenor

Mrs Anna Matuszek
1422 Huon Rd.
Neika 7054
mob: 0417 066 297
annamatuszek1422@gmail.com

Archivist

Mrs Lillian Deane
58/131 Hill St.
West Hobart 7000
Ph. 6234 9878
lillipet@bigpond.com

Craft Office

Mrs Lola Phillips
21 Walker St.
Sorell 7172
Ph 6265 2268

Review Editor

Mrs Anna Matuszek
1422 Huon Rd.
Neika 7054
mob: 0417 066 297
annamatuszek1422@gmail.com