

# REVIEW



## Gathering in Christ

### President's Message

Volume 53, no. 6  
December 2013

#### Inside this issue:

Reflection	2
Secretary's Report	3
Southern & Northern Reports	4
WUCWO	5
Social Issues	6
Recipes	7
Minutes of the AGM/ MID-TERM Meeting	8/9

#### Special points of interest:

- Minutes of the AGM
- Christmas recipes

Many thanks to all those faithful members who wrote letters of protest to the State Government concerning the recent Euthanasia Bill. So far it appears we are being heard, but please keep up the prayers and be ready to put pen to paper again when requested.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims and families of the devastating typhoon in the Philippines. Our thoughts are especially with Susie Drake, a faithful and regular volunteer in our Craft Shop. We will be making a donation to assist with relief.

We thank Sr. Marjorie Boutchard for preparing our monthly Spiritual Reflections, which always inspire us to think and debate. Sadly, Sr. Marjorie's brother, Alan, passed away recently. We extend to her and her family members our condolences and prayers. Rest in peace, Alan.

On October 28 our Northern Vice-President, Wendy Fittler, booked a nice room at the Ross Bakery and Café for the State Executive to hold a meeting. Here we discussed the recent National Conference and the letters to be written as a result of the motions carried. Preliminary suggestions for our State Conference next September were put forward, but nothing definite can be decided until

we confer with Archbishop Julian Porteous. We are looking forward to December 3, when we are to meet His Grace at his Presbytery in Barrack Street. In the meantime please consider a theme for Conference and any topical motions you may be able to submit. Also keep working on your fabulous handcraft.

Many thanks to all those clever ladies who constantly supply the Craft Shop. We have many original Christmas gifts on offer at the moment and hope sales will pick up now after a quiet couple of months. Sorry to hear our tea-cosy knitter, Mollie Woods, aged 97, is in hospital and we wish her a speedy recovery. Molly had a visitor from Queensland the week before she was taken ill – Christopher Hurd – the son of Barbara, a former member of her New Town Branch. Chris always brings news from Barbara to Mollie when he visits Tasmania. Thanks are due to the class of St. Mary's College girls who raised \$500 for Lindisfarne Branch to pay freight on their regular parcels to Dr. Christine Stokes (a former pupil and daughter of Barbara Jeffries) for her mission among the Aborigines in Western Australia – what a great contribution. Thank you for your interest, girls!

Lola Phillips





## Reflection December

Prepared by Sr. Marjorie Boutchard PBVM

The most profound words ever written are the beginning words of St. John's Gospel: Ch. 1 vs. 1, 2, and 14 NRSV (Abridged)

*"In the beginning was the Word*

*And the Word was with God*

*And the Word was God.*

*The Word became flesh*

*And lived among us"*

*"And we have seen his power and his glory*

*The glory as of a father's only Son*

*Full of grace and truth."*

So often we glibly say these words without reflecting on the deep mystery they describe. The Son of God set aside his divinity and took a human body which experienced all the joys, sorrows, pains, heartaches and ills we experience. This mystery shows God's great love for us. It is no wonder that we cannot grasp the meaning of this Word spoken by God.

### Reflection

What are your feelings as you read St. John's words? Share a word that speaks to you.

As well as God's Word spoken, another word was needed. We listen to this word in St. Luke's Gospel.

### Mary's Word Luke 1: 26-30

"In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be", Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant", Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

What touches you in this Gospel passage?

- The youth of Mary?
- Her simplicity?

Her words?

You may like to share with the group.

As you listen and reflect on Mary's word

### Our Words

As you listen and reflect on Mary's word, which made the great mystery of God's love visible in human form in our world, what are your words?

**Discussion**

- In the hurly-burly of Christmas preparation, sometimes we forget the important words, e.g. love, family, gratefulness which is the heart of prayer, reconciliation and peace.
- What do you think is the best way to reflect the glory of God in our Christmas preparations?
- What custom in your family speaks the true meaning of Christmas?

What could you do in your Christmas preparation to bring you closer to Jesus, God's Word and Mary who spoke God's Word?

**Homework**

Prepare for and celebrate Christmas well!



**MASS CRUSADE – DECEMBER**

**HOBART**

**Victimised Children.** That children who are victims of abandonment or violence may find the love and protection they need.



**From the Secretary's Desk**

Well, it's that time of year again, when we start thinking about Christmas and the birth of Jesus Christ; we start rushing around and doing all that special shopping for food and gifts. I wish you all a very happy, holy and safe Christmas.

**Conference Themes.** Branches are asked to start thinking about a theme for next year's State Conference. Please send your suggestions to me after your first meeting in 2014, so they can be voted on and the result printed in the April/May "Review". Consideration should also be given to motions.



For those of you who would like to receive a hard copy of the CWL Australia Newsletter, it is possible and it will cost you \$12 for the year. If you'd like this, please let me know and I will arrange it.

My sincere thanks to all those members who have helped me in any way this year.

**Patricia Leamey**

## From the Southern Vice-President

As I write this in order to meet the deadline for December "Review", we are still in November, the month of the Holy Souls. I remember hearing many times in my childhood – "It is a holy and wholesome thing to pray for the dead that they may be released from their sins".

We remember all our close relatives and friends who have gone to their eternal reward – recalling them at different stages of their lives – and especially remembering them in our prayers. Please add the name of Joan Dineen, who passed away this week.

Joan was a long time and very faithful member of CWL, at Kings Meadows, Launceston and lately on the North-West Coast.

Please pray, also, for the many victims of Typhoon Haiyan, as we extend our sympathy to our Philippine colleagues and their families.

We now move through Advent to Christmas and a truly joyous season in the Church's year. A Happy and Holy Christmas to all; we celebrated the first of many seasonal occasions with the Lindisfarne/Risdon Vale Branch luncheon at Wrest Point. "Thank you" to the organizers and all the guests for a wonderful gathering.

Pope Francis has made many statements since his inauguration, including this which seemed to me to have special application to CWL: "The Church's missionary spirit is not about proselytizing, but the testimony of a life that illuminates the path, which brings hope and love. The Church is not a relief organisation, nor an enterprise nor an NGO, but a community of people, animated by the Holy Spirit, who have lived and are living the wonder of the encounter with Jesus Christ and want to share this experience of deep joy, the message of salvation that the Lord gave us".

**Eris Smyth**

*"The church is not a relief organisation nor an enterprise nor an NGO, but a community of people..."*  
**Pope Francis**

## From the North-West Vice-President

As we celebrate the birth of Our Lord, may God bless us abundantly with joys that will increase.

North-West branches will celebrate their Christmas lunches in December. Ulverstone will meet at Pedros in Ulverstone on Friday, December 13 at 12 noon.

Devonport will meet on Wednesday, December 11 at Emmaus House at 2.00 pm for their meeting, after which a Christmas afternoon tea will be enjoyed in the company of invited guests.

A very happy and holy Christmas to all CWL members and their families and a happy and prosperous New Year.

**Kath Pearce**

## WUCWO From the State International Secretary

### THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM

With great tenderness our thoughts accompany the holy people who are travelling towards Bethlehem: Jesus, hidden in the immaculate womb of Mary, Our Lady, exposed to so many hardships while she is performing her duty to God and men, and Joseph, her humble and silent husband, strong and faithful. The shepherds and the Magi kings also follow the same road, which will lead them to worship in the cave. The procession is on the move...



We are all invited to join this happy band of souls who go to present their gifts to the Son of God, and to find strength, light and courage for their daily duties, because only in him, through him and with him, does our work become a means of glorifying the Lord, of benefiting our neighbour and of attaining indestructible peace in our own hearts.

May the Word of the Father whose “goodness and loving kindness” we shall contemplate in a few days from now, and who appeared in this world to save mankind, grant to you all the fullness of his grace. “Rejoice in the Lord, o you righteous! Praise befits the upright” (Psalm 32 (33)).

In fact, the message of our Saviour Jesus was indeed a joyful announcement: it was the “good news” and it would be a great mistake to imagine, as many thinkers and poets of past times have done, that Christianity is dismal and mournful. No, Christianity is joy, joy in order and peace, with God, with ourselves, and with all those we meet.

*Pope John XX11*

*From Days of Devotion, 1967*

**Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all our readers from the Editorial Team.**

## Social Issues Committee Report



### Euthanasia.

How thankful we can be that the Tasmanian government has once again voted against legalizing euthanasia and assisted suicide! Whether by writing submissions, meeting with politicians, sending them messages, and constant prayer, all League members played their part. With God's help we have once again maintained an environment where care, not killing, is the prevailing attitude.

### Same Sex Marriage

The move by Ruth Forrest in the Legislative Council to revisit the marriage Bill

was also voted down. Part of the discussion centred around whether Tasmanian legislation allowing same sex marriage would stand. A similar Bill has just been voted down in the N.S.W. Parliament.

The High Court of Australia is in the process of determining whether a State law would stand, so we must again pray that their ruling will hinder any further moves here.

### Abortion

As this goes to press, we await the debate in the Legislative Council on Michelle O'Byrne's private members bill. Brigid McKenna wrote an excellent submission and she and I appeared before the Committee of Inquiry.

We regard the present Tasmanian law which legalizes abortion at any stage of pregnancy for any reason to be unethical and unjust. However, we believe changed provisions and added side issues in the Reproductive Health (Access to Terminations) Bill 2012 (the Bill) constitute a further step backward from providing a just framework for the unborn, for women and Tasmanians in general.

Abortion legislation should remain in the Criminal Code

Abortion is not an ordinary medical procedure; it is the taking of a life.

We have drawn attention to the following important issues:

- **Informed decision making.** Need to keep the requirements for full information from the doctor throughout the 40 weeks, not only after 16 weeks as proposed.
- **Freedom of conscience.** The right to conscientious objection
- **Freedom of association.** The right to consult lawfully with whomever you wish.

**Freedom of speech and freedom of assembly.** The right to state one's views and to protest.

We call on Almighty God to bless all our efforts and to send the Holy Spirit to enlighten our politicians to create laws that bring justice to the unborn, and to their mothers and their fathers.

Pat Gartlan, Convenor



## **MINUTES OF AGM/MID-TERM MEETING HELD AT ST. FRANCIS CHURCH, RIVERSIDE, SEPTEMBER 25, 2013**

The President, Mrs. Phillips, opened the meeting at 10.45am with the welcome and Opening Prayers.

**ROLL CALL: Present:** Devonport, George Town, Hobart, Launceston, Oatlands, Lindisfarne/Risdon Vale, Richmond, Sorell and Ulverstone.

**ROLL CALL: Absent:** Kingborough, Lilydale/Karoola and St. Leonards.

**PRESENT:** Lola Phillips (State President and Life Member), Patricia Leamey (State Secretary), Jan Lawler (State Treasurer), Mary Walsh (International Secretary), Kath Pearce (Life Member and North-West Vice-President), Wendy Fittler (Northern Vice-President) and Eris Smyth OAM (Life Member and Southern Vice-President), Bernice McKenna, Agnes Banim, Pat Gartlan and Lillian Deane (Life Members); Kath Venn OAM, Mary Excell OAM, Pat Edwards, Barbara Jeffries, Kathie Schramm, Mavis Fitzgerald, Deidre Reid, Marjorie White, Irene Bingham, Gaye Clark, Leonie Darcy, Beryl Tiernan, Jenny Smith, Marie Byrne, Carmel Girvan, Pat Cameron, Rozanne Neskovicin and guest speakers Anne Sherston and Senator Helen Polley.

**APOLOGIES:** Pat Haines (Life Member), Betty Roberts OAM, Judy Gibbens and members of Lilydale/Karoola Branch.

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM CONFERENCE 2012:** Meeting Procedure.

### **CONFIRMATION OF OFFICE BEARERS:**

As the term for State office bearers of Catholic Women's League Tasmania Inc. is two years, the current positions were confirmed for 2013/2014:

President:	Mrs. Lola Phillips
Secretary:	Miss Patricia Leamey
Treasurer:	Mrs. Jan Lawler
International Secretary:	Mrs. Mary Walsh
Vice-Presidents:	
North	Mrs. Wendy Fittler
North-West	Mrs. Kath Pearce
South	Mrs. Eris Smyth OAM

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Mrs. Lawler presented her report and requested authorization to pay outstanding accounts and also to make a donation of \$50 to the Riverside Parish for the use of their facilities. Moved Mrs. Lawler, seconded Mrs. Pearce.

**National Conference Report.** Mrs. Smyth gave a report on the National Conference held in Townsville. This was reported in the October/November edition of "Review".

**Craft Shop.** Mrs. Phillips reported on the operation of the Craft Shop and told us that during Seniors Week, Devonshire teas would be served to the public in the laneway, providing the weather is fine.

**Archives.** Mrs. Deane reported on her work with the Archives, informing members that Sr. Carmel has retired and Pru Francis is working at the Wallis Centre.

**“Review”.** Members were asked if they were happy with the current way this Newsletter is produced.

**Closure of Branch.** Mrs. Phillips spoke about her visit, with State Treasurer, Jan Lawler, to the now closed Circular Head Branch and the Mass in the beautiful St. Peter Chanel Church.

**Senator Helen Polley.** Senator Polley spoke on some of her ideas and concerns about growing as an organization and the need to get young people involved, especially on social issues. She continues her fight for Baby Havens for unwanted babies, so they can be safe.

**International Conference in Jordan.** International Secretary, Mary Walsh, read her report and gave some details of the upcoming WUCWO Conference to be held in Jordan.

**COMMUNION SERVICE:** At 12 noon members moved into the church for a very beautiful Communion Service, conducted by Sr. Frances McShane. This was followed by a most enjoyable soup and sandwich lunch, which was prepared by the Launceston and George Town Branches.

**Guest Speaker:** When members reassembled, Mrs. Anne Sherston gave a very interesting talk on the work of Rachel’s Vineyard Retreats, which are healing weekends for those who have experienced abortions.

**Social Issues:** Mrs. Gartlan gave a Social Issues report, emphasizing the fact that the Euthanasia Bill was to come up again in Parliament within a short period and we should write to our MPs objecting to the said Bill.

**GENERAL BUSINESS:**

**Handcraft Chairman:** The issue of Handcraft Chairman was raised by Miss Leamey and she recommended that Mrs. Noni O’Hara be appointed. Moved Hobart Branch, seconded George Town. Carried.

**George Town Branch.** The President of the branch, Mrs. Wendy Fittler, expressed the concern of her members who are not on the Internet, that they feel isolated when unable to receive background information on social issues. It was resolved that Minutes of the Social Issues meetings be sent to them. Mrs. Eris Smyth offered to provide envelopes.

**Suggestion re Outings for members.** A letter from Life Member and President of Launceston Branch, Mrs. Pat Haines, concerning bus trips for members, was discussed, but no decision reached. This will be followed up.

**Next State Executive Meeting.** The Northern Vice-President will arrange for this to be held at either Oatlands or Campbell Town, on a date to be advised.

**Votes of Thanks to:**

- Sr. Frances McShane for the lovely Communion Service (by Bernice McKenna)
  - Mrs. Wendy Fittler and her helpers for her organization of the day (by Mrs. Kath Pearce)
- Members of George Town and Launceston Branches for all their work in catering (by Mrs. Wendy Fittler).

The meeting closed at 2.30pm with closing prayers and the raffle was drawn.

President.....

Date.....

## COMING EVENTS:

Mass Crusade

Hobart

December

### Christmas Functions:

George Town 4/12/2013 Mass at 11:30am. Lunch at Grey's Hotel

Launceston 10/12/2013 Mass at 11:30am Mt Esk. Lunch at the Country Club

Devonport 11/12/2013 Emmaus House at 2:00pm

Ulverstone 13/12/2013 meet at Pedros at 12 noon

## LIST OF STATE EXECUTIVE:

### State President & Craft/Office Chairperson

#### President

Mrs. Lola Phillips

21 Walker St

Sorell 7172

Ph. 6265 2268

ann.sutcliffe2@bigpond.com

#### State Secretary

Miss Patricia Leamey

2/63 Brent St.

Glenorchy 7010

Ph. 6273 9630

plpansy@oneseniors.com.au

#### Treasurer

Mrs. Jan Lawler

65 Main Road

Sorell 7172

Ph. 6265 2321

ann.sutcliffe2@bigpond.com

#### Immediate Past President:

Mrs. Marjorie Payton

PO Box 82

Stanley 7330

Ph. 6458 3232

#### International Secretary:

Mrs. Mary Walsh

2a Cedar St.

Lindisfarne 7015

Ph. 6243 8136

mmwalsh@netspace.net.au

#### Southern Vice-President:

Mrs. Eris Smyth

30 Waterloo Crescent

Battery Point 7004

Ph. 6223 3417

es866974@bigpond.net.au

#### Northern Vice-President:

Mrs. Wendy Fittler

14 Burnett St.,

George Town

Ph. 6382 1816

wfittler@bigpond.com

#### North West V/P:

Mrs. Kath Pearce

2/40 George St.

Devonport 7310

Ph. 6424 6504

kathpearce@bigpond.com

Editors – Lillian Deane & Sandra Harvey, 65b Jetty Road, Old Beach 7017  
email spharvey65@yahoo.com.au

**SPONSORED by the Catholic Development Fund**