



CWL Review volume 58 No 2

April/May 2018

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



President's Message

Dear Friends,

I have recently undergone hip surgery and am recovering well, thankfully. My sincere thanks for all your lovely get well cards and prayers which really touched my heart. Where would we be without our faith at such times in our lives.

I am sorry to inform you that we made an error as to the venue for our Conference, as the Nell Pascoe Room is so popular and fully booked these days, with classes in music, exercise, art and much, much more, all for seniors. It is wonderful to know that our CWL had a small part in its beginnings!

Our executive is looking into alternative venues and may have found the perfect spot. Please keep the 29th, 30th and 31st August free, as those dates are definite for our 2018 Conference - our next Review will confirm details.

Easter is fast approaching as I write, and my prayers and thoughts are with you and your families that Easter will be a most holy and blessed season.

May God be glorified in all we do.

Deirdre Reid

Jokes:

Q: How do you know that a monster is under your bed?

A: Your nose touches the ceiling!

Q: What do you do if a blonde throws a grenade?

A: Pull the pin and throw it back!

State Secretary

Keeping our organization relevant and sustainable for the future.
 Father I put my life in your hands - we also put our beloved League into Your hands.

Jan Lawler and I had a wonderful day sharing with George Town, Lilydale, Karoola, Launceston members and some of their north-eastern friends, at a Christmas lunch held at George Town. Thank you ladies for inviting us. We both enjoyed getting to know you better and felt a warmth of friendship and harmony.

The southern ladies also absolutely enjoyed greeting the northerners on their excursion day to Richmond, in January.

Many people voiced their hope that we could do a similar get-together, purely social, at least once a year. Ideas please.

Ladies could we have a little message for The Review, from your branch now and again, just to tell us a bit of your news. Spread the word.

My branch is so happy to welcome a new member this month. Anne Laugher, who is daughter of Pat Thomas and niece of Colonel Nell Espie. She has just moved into a lovely house that overlooks Lake Dulverton. We are so happy to have her. Our treasurer Catherine Marshall, the one who sewed the lovely big quilt for the last state raffle, is currently undergoing a stint in hospital and is soon facing chemo and radiation treatment. We pray for a full recovery for her. Oatlands and Campbell Town join occasionally for special church celebrations. One such one is happening soon with the Mission Evening with Archbishop Porteous.

I took part in the ceremony at St Paul's Church Bridgewater. It was very well attended and most people took the advantage of receiving the sacrament of penance. Father Leo was busy for hours hearing confessions, well, say a long time! Deirdre Reid, our state president is now home after having hip surgery. She is delighted to have her son from Brisbane spending time caring for her while she recuperates. She will take a little while to become strong again. We wish her well and pray that she heals quickly .

Lola Phillips, managing director of our craft shop has moved house and now resides in Lindisfarne. She has settled in extremely well. After having lived in Sorell for 30 years and being a big part of Catholic Women's League there for all that time, she will be sorely missed. What is Sorell's loss, is Lindisfarne's gain! Lola lost her one remaining brother from Triabunna at the time of her moving. May he rest in peace.

On page 2 of the last Review, there was an article with my name attached. Please note it should have stated that – This is the submission that was sent, on behalf of C W L Tas., to the Ruddock group (which was set re the enquiry for freedom of Religion in Australia) .

Wishing you all a happy and holy Easter. May the joy of the Risen Christ be with us all.

Judy Gibbens

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.

Thursday, 24th May is the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, who is the Patroness of CWL.

REFLECTION: St Joseph the Refugee Saint

Pope John Paul II said of St Joseph:

'St Joseph was a just man, a tireless worker, the upright guardian of those entrusted to his care. May he always guard, protect and enlighten families.'

Who was Joseph, the family man? There is much we can learn of him from the scriptures, even though we do not have words of his to read. It is by his actions that we know, admire and trust him as he acted in complete obedience to his God. The gospel according to Matthew (2:13) tells the story of Joseph's receiving a message via the ministry of the angel:

'Rise, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him'.

In a spirit of obedience Joseph became a refugee from his own country to face the unknown. Like the journey to Bethlehem, it was a long way, it could have taken about a month, in heat and fear of attack from bandits. He had to leave his carpentry business which was his livelihood and the home he had provided for Mary and Jesus. No word seems to have been given in the message about his return: just *'remain there till I tell you.'*

This story of Joseph and his family brings to mind the people in our own times who are in the same predicament. They too have to flee, sometimes at once, to another land, not knowing if they will ever be able to return to their own country. We see in news items, thousands of people; men, women and children trudging along in silence towards an unknown destination.

May St Joseph look upon these families, who like his own had to run from persecution. Think of the children who like Jesus himself have to follow their parents into unbelievable distress and hardship.

Question.

What more can we do to help those who have fled in similar circumstances; those who have come to our country?

REFLECTION TWO: The Feast of the Annunciation

The Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth is really a huge basilica which stands over the cave which tradition holds to be the home of Mary. Preserved now within the confines of the basilica this small dwelling pays tribute to the 'Yes' of Mary as she consented to be the mother of our Saviour:

'Let it be done to me according to your word.'

And so it was: *The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.* (John 1: 14)

We understand that this feast was celebrated in the Church as early the fourth century and that it was honoured in the writings of St Augustine. A traditional name was 'Lady Day'.

The Mary we read about in St Luke's gospel is seen as a model for all Christians. She is the one who is the first of the disciples. She is honoured as *'the one favoured by the Lord, blessed among women'*, not so much that she is to be a mother, but that she believes God's word. She places her trust in him and fulfills her vocation in faith. Mary is the ideal model for the followers of Jesus her son. In our own limited way we can all strive to be courageous witnesses and bearers of the Good News.

Holy Mary, Mother of God pray for us.

Question:

How do I act in the role of disciple as Mary did?

Pamela Davis OP



From the Southern Vice President

Apologies from the Editor: In our haste to send out the last Review, we neglected to include Roseanne's New Year message, which is still relevant, so we have included it here as well.

As we start the New Year, pause and think of the past weeks when we celebrated the birth of Jesus and the feast of the Holy Family, and ponder the importance of family. The highs and lows, the excitement and disappointments, and all the ups and downs of family life.

Family does not just mean our relatives, but also our church, our community, and all the folk who are part of our 'family'. Reach out to them with a smile or a kind word; it is amazing what a difference a little bit of friendship can make.

I would like to wish you and your 'families' good health, happiness, and every blessing for the New Year.

And now, back to our regular programming.

We are well into the New Year. Christmas cakes, puddings, and other goodies are off the supermarket shelves and how they are filled with Easter eggs and hot cross buns. Perhaps a little premature, but wouldn't it be good if we could spend as much time preparing for Easter as the shops do.

Some of us are fortunate to do a Lenten programme and what a lovely one it is this year. 'Surrender', if only we could completely surrender ourselves to Him. I think we all do in our own individual way.

Gethsemane

In the garden at Gethsemane could you watch and pray,
 Would you share His anguish or would you walk away.
 And as the hours grow longer and sleep tries to claim your eyes.
 Would you kneel up straight and try to realise,
 That Jesus wants you with Him,
 To watch and pray this night
 To share the heavy burden and help to make it light
 You cannot stop His suffering, but you can watch and pray
 And let Him know you love Him
 As the daylight fades away.

Wishing you all the blessings and joy of the Easter season.

Roseanne Way

Northern Vice-President

With Autumn well and truly established, I hope everyone is well and enjoying the cooler days.

Since my last report, there has not been a great deal of activity from the North. Our year started with branch meetings in February when Launceston suggested an activity to support returned servicemen who are doing it tough.

World Day of Prayer was celebrated in George Town at the Salvation Army Church and attended by quite a few C.W.L. members. The service was followed by a delicious morning tea and fellowship with members from the other church communities in our town. It really is wonderful to see the friendships that exist between the various church groups.

Launceston organised a memorial Mass for Tony McKenna followed by lunch at the Newstead Hotel. Mass said by Fr Chris who also joined us for lunch, which was a warm and companionable occasion. Several C.W.L. members from George Town were also able to attend, thus continuing our pattern of shared lunches between the Northern branches.

As a final comment, I would like everyone to consider the necessity to relieve some of the current State Executive of their duties this year. Some have served more than a "fair term" of office and really need to have a break. Please read the message from the State Executive included in this Review and seriously consider sharing the roles.

Easter is now nearly upon us, so I wish you all a very happy Easter.

Wendy Fittler

State Treasurer

Women's Voice subscriptions has been renewed and are still \$22.00. Our membership fees are due in May at our AGM and should be paid to your Treasurer before May 30th so we can send our numbers list to National for insurance purposes.

Diocesan members please send your \$25.00 to me , also those who pay only 'Review Only' \$11.00 by May 30th.

Jan Lawler

Social Issues and Bioethics Committee

Pope Francis and four hundred religious leaders and scholars from around the world met in Rome in November 2014.

In the book, 'Not Just Good, but Beautiful. The Complementary Relationship Between Man and Woman', sixteen presentations have been printed. Sr. M Prudence Allen is one of these sixteen. She says: 'We are most fortunate to live in a time of history when many important truths revealed in Scripture about the integral complementarity of women and man have been verified by science and philosophy... We know the truth about conception today... Women and men provide a contribution of equal dignity to generation in the same number of chromosomes.'

Sister Allen points out that: 'Organic nature often has some exception to laws about the forms of things. These exceptions do not destroy the rule or a law... Exceptions occur and remain in the lives of persons who may genuinely suffer from them, such a person who may embody some ambiguity in sex identity or for a married woman and man who are unable to conceive a child. It often is a great suffering for a person to embody such an exception to the forms in nature. Yet the forms of what is always or is usually the case in scientific law remain.'

She goes on to say: 'A simple way to depict the difference between sex identity and gender identity is to say that our sex identity is (always or for the most part) male or female. It is a one-dimensional point of reference. An infant has a sex identity verified by science in chromosomes, anatomy, and physiology.. The truth about women and men is well known. There is no excuse left to defend anything other than the equal dignity and significant difference of women men.'

Alfred Kinsey and his sex ideology and more recently, the psychologist John Money and his gender ideology have much to answer for in society today accepting and promoting the exceptions as the norm. Luckily, as Sister writes: 'Fortunately, the self-correcting nature of scientific research has brought to light what was done in the dark by Kinsey and Money.'

Anna Matuszek

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

Anna.

**Thursday, 24th May is the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians,
who is the Patroness of CWL.**

Divine Mercy Sunday will be celebrated on the 8th April around Tasmania as follows:

Sacred Heart Church, Alexandra Road, Ulverstone –
9.00am Mass followed by Divine Mercy devotions. A 9-day novena of the Divine Mercy Chaplet commencing on Good Friday will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Devonport at 5pm each night prior to Divine Mercy Sunday. Enquiries: Michael 0447 018 068.

The Church of the Apostles, Margaret Street, Launceston –
2.30pm Holy Hour with Veneration of the Divine Mercy Image, Recitation of the Holy Rosary, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Gospel Reading and Homily, 3 o'clock Prayer, Chaplet of Divine Mercy (sung by members of the Palavra Viva Community)
Reconciliation available, Benediction
Afternoon tea in parish centre
Enquiries: Bernice (03) 6344 1799.

St. Mary's Cathedral, Harrington Street, Hobart –
2.00pm to 3.00pm Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation, Divine Mercy Chaplet; 3.00pm Benediction; 3.15pm Mass with Archbishop Porteous as main celebrant
Enquiries: Maree (03) 6228 7108.

The Second Greatest Story Ever Told

On the 8th of October in the Great Jubilee Year 2000, my wife Giovanna and I were in Rome with a busload of Tasmanian Catholic pilgrims including our dear Archbishop Emeritus Adrian Doyle, for the Jubilee of the Bishops. We attended a wonderful Mass in St Peter's Square presided over by St John Paul II and celebrated by hundreds of bishops from all round the world. On the way to Rome, Giovanna and I had visited the famous Marian shrines of Fatima in Portugal and Lourdes in France and the convent chapel of the Sacred Heart apparitions in Paray-le-Monial in France. These we visited to try to enter a bit deeper into our Catholic tradition. At the time we hardly realized the importance, in that year of grace, of St John Paul II's action, on the 2nd Sunday of Easter, in canonising St Faustina Kowalska and instituting the Feast of Divine Mercy.

A few years later, we had the opportunity to visit Poland and see, at Auschwitz, the cell where Fr Maximilian Kolbe and his companions had died; to visit the amazing shrine of Divine Mercy at Ławgiewniki in Krakow; and to see the home in Wadowice where St John Paul II grew up and the Cathedral in Krakow where he was later Archbishop. For me, these experiences had a profound effect. They put me deeper in touch with the power of God's love shown to us in Jesus Our Lord and Saviour, and how His grace has been poured out even in the midst of the great evils of our times. How could one not be moved by the stories of St Faustina and St Maximilian and St John Paul II? As I read more about their lives and their writings I was moved to have greater faith in the power of God's love even in the midst of despicable evil.

Still, it was not until quite recently that I have been helped to see all these powerful illuminations of grace in a dark and sinful world as parts of God's plan to give a special outpouring of mercy in our times, in response to our profound need for His love. That plan is the subject of a book by Fr Michael Gaitley MIC called 'The Second Greatest Story Ever Told: Now Is the Time of Mercy'. This wonderful book gives us the 'keys' to join in the great work of the Holy Spirit today: Divine Mercy, Marian consecration and the message of Our Lady at Fatima. He shows how these things come together in the person of St John Paul II. So it is Divine Mercy which is at the heart of the second greatest story ever told, just as it was at the heart of the first greatest story ever told – the Holy Bible. Fr Gaitley draws into his overview of the graces for our times the roots of Divine Mercy in the revelations concerning the Sacred Heart made to St Margaret Mary Alacoque at Paray-le-Monial and the work of St Louis de Montfort and St Alphonsus de Liguori to spread the message that Christianity is all about God's infinite, merciful love for us and our whole-hearted response.

The book is a real page-turner and very well written. It has now been turned into a series of video talks by Fr Michael, beautifully produced by the Augustine Institute Video Production Team. In fact it was through these ten half-hour documentary videos that we came across the book. Through a subscription to the treasure-filled Augustine Institute website called formed.org we came across the video series. One evening we watched one episode but we could not stop at one. We stayed up late to watch several more and next morning couldn't wait to see the rest. This Lent, many parishioners are watching these videos over five weekly sessions in the Cathedral Centre and are just as enthralled as we were. Many have said there is so much good material in there that they want to get the book and read it over again. At the heart of the whole message is the story that over and over again, when evil abounds, God's grace abounds even more (cf Rom 5:20).

The American biographer of St John Paul II, George Weigel makes the point that the New Evangelisation and Divine Mercy are inextricably linked because "now is the time of mercy", and mercy is the gateway to truth in a wounded and suffering world. The book is available from the Cathedral bookshop or from websites like www.bookdepository.com – I recommend it most highly.

Deacon Nick MacFarlane

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

With this year being a Conference year it is time to think with some seriousness about the sharing of roles on the Executive Committee.

Some of the current members have well and truly served their term on the Executive but have needed to hold onto their position for up to three and four terms because no other nominations were put forward.

The time has come for them to step down and make way for new members to have a turn.

Please consider taking on one of the Executive roles. It is a wonderful opportunity to grow and develop and life-long friendships are made. You do not need to be an "expert" in any field and you have tremendous support from other members.

Please think about it!

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