



CWL Review volume 60 No 1

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



## **President's Message**

Happy New Year to all my CWL friends and may 2019 bring us health and many blessings.

My New Year wish is for us all to continue our friendships and interest in all CWL activities. Maybe by holding lunches or afternoon teas we can encourage new ladies to come along and enjoy a social get together and in this way may be interested enough to join us. Our executive enjoy meeting up with you all and only need an invitation to visit your branches.

I hope you feel refreshed after a break and are ready to begin a New and interesting 2019.

A special cheerio to our unwell ladies as usual and know that you are always in or prayers.

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

May God be glorified in all we do.

Deirdre Reid, President

## From the State Secretary

The Miracle Prayer.



Lord Jesus I come before you, just as I am.  
I am sorry for my sins. I repent of my sins, please forgive me.

In your name I forgive all others for what they have done against me.  
I renounce Satan, the evil spirits and all their works.  
I give you my entire self. Lord Jesus, now and forever. I invite you into my life,  
Jesus, I accept you as my Lord, God and Saviour.

Heal me, change me, strengthen me in body, soul and spirit,

Come Lord Jesus, I praise you Jesus.

I thank you Jesus. I shall follow you every day of my life.  
Amen

Mary my mother, Queen of peace, St Peregrine, the cancer saint, all you  
Angels and Saints please help me.  
Amen

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Hello My Catholic Women's League sisters, I know many of you have this  
beautiful Miracle prayer in your Scripture Diary, But for those who don't, I want  
to share it with you.

May peace, happiness and good health be yours this year.

May you share God's love in your groups,

"Glory be to him whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we  
can imagine" (St Paul Ephesians 3: 14-21).

Best wishes for a wonderful 2019 – TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE MORE.

Judith Gibbens

### **From the Southern Vice President**

As we still find ourselves in “holiday mode”, hopefully we have more time to read and reflect on our daily living.

As Fr. Howard reminded us in his homily on Sunday on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord – it is fitting for us to keep Jesus in every day living.

Not just in our formal prayers such as the Rosary and Holy Mass but all through the day.

To remember to thank the Lord when we have the pleasure of a visit from our children or grandchildren, from a neighbour or other friends.

To consult Him with our daily decision making, in offering up our aches and pains as penance for our sins.

There are so many ways we can keep the Lord close to us as we journey through our day.

Some “new reminders” around the home is a good way to start. We sometimes get used to our usual crucifixes and holy pictures around the home, but to see a different religious object on a shelf or side table gives our minds that little jolt that it sometimes needs.

We have so many things to pray to the Lord and the Blessed Virgin and the Saints for, not least the Marriage Amendment Bill, the struggle for families suffering abuse and poverty, the plight of innocent children around the world, that our prayers seem never ending.

But spreading them across our day with the offerings we can make, keeps us in harmony with our faith.

On a sad note we offer our condolences to Annette McSherry from the Bridgewater Brighton Parish on the sudden loss of her soul mate and husband, Steve. A more devoted couple you would not find. Some of you would have met Annette at our CWL Catholic Women’s Luncheon last year. Our deepest sympathies Annette.

My prayers for a happy and blessed 2019 for all our CWL members.

May God be glorified in all we do.

Pam Clark.

## **Social Issues**

The following letter was sent from the Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, to our State Secretary Judith Gibbens:

*Dear Judith,*

*I wrote to you on a matter of great concern to Australians of all faiths.*

*As you may be aware, this week I released our Government's response to the Religious Freedom Review, chaired by the Hon Philip Ruddock. I was also pleased to announce our plans to legislate a Religious Discrimination Act, to protect Australians of faith from discrimination. Our Government will also establish the position of Freedom of Religion Commissioner at the Australian Human Rights Commission. The new Commissioner will be dedicated to safeguarding the rights of religious Australians.*

*However, those are not the reasons for this letter. My reason for writing is a matter that is perhaps of even greater importance to you.*

*In October, the Government made a commitment to address the issue of discrimination against children in schools on the basis of sexual orientation.*

*As parliament resumed last week, the Government proposed legislative changes that sought to remove discrimination against children while also upholding the fundamental right to religious schools and religious institutions to continue to teach and act in accordance with the tenets and doctrines of their faiths.*

*We hoped to reach a bipartisan solution.*

*Instead, the Leader of the Opposition introduced a Bill into the Parliament that would, for the first time, apply the full force of the Commonwealth Sex Discrimination Act (SDA) to all bodies established for religious purposes: churches, mosques, synagogues, monasteries, convents, prayer groups, faith study groups, theological colleges and all others.*

*Mr Shorten's Sex Discrimination Amendment (Removing Discrimination Against Students) Bill 2018 risks an unprecedented encroachment on religious freedom in this country. The effect of these changes would be to censor what can be taught in religious bodies and dictate how these bodies teach their faith.*

*As you may be aware, there is agreement across the Parliament to remove subsection 38(3) of the SDA. That provision currently permits religious*

*educational institutions to discriminate against students on the basis of their identity. Our Government wishes to repeal that provision. However, the Liberal National Government cannot support the idea that teachings and practices of temples, synagogues, churches and mosques across Australia should suddenly expose those bodies to lawsuits under anti-discrimination legislation.*

*For those reasons, we sought Mr Shorten's support for a Government Bill that would remove the right to discriminate against students while also protecting faith-based schools from legal action on the grounds I have described. The Bill would keep the current protections for other religious bodies such as churches, synagogues and mosques.*

*Mr Shorten refused this offer.*

*As the year draws to a close, please rest assured that the Government will continue to defend the right of religious bodies to teach and act in accordance with their faith.*

*You will find more information on our plans to protect religious freedom here:*

*<http://www.ag.gov.au/RightsAndProtections/HumanRights/Pages/Freedom-of-Religious.aspx>*

*I would appreciate if you would consider informing your community of the Government's efforts on the issue.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Scott Morrison.*

Anna Matuszek, Social Issues Convenor.

## REFLECTION

### *Reflection 1*

Not all of us can do great things. But we all can do small things with great love

~ St Teresa of Calcutta ~

Extract taken from Gaudete et Exsultate:

To be holy does not require being a Bishop, a Priest or a religious. We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. That is not the case. We are called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, where ever we find ourselves. Are you called to the consecrated life? Be holy by living out your commitment with joy. Are you married? Be holy by loving and caring for your husband or wife, as Christ does for the church. Do you work for a living? Be holy by laboring with integrity and skill in the service of your brothers and sisters. Are you a parent or grandparent? Be holy by patiently teaching the little ones how to follow Jesus. Are you in a position of Authority? Be holy by working for the common good and renouncing personal gain.

Let the grace of your baptism, bear fruit in a path of Holiness. Let everything be open to God; turn to Him in every situation. Do not be dismayed, for the power of the Holy Spirit enables you to do this, and holiness, in the end, is the fruit of the Holy Spirit in your life (cf. Gal 5:22-23). When you feel the temptation to dwell on your own weakness, raise your eyes to Christ crucified and say; "Lord, I am a poor sinner, but you can work the miracle of making me a little bit better". In the Church, holy yet made up of sinners, you will find everything you need to grow towards holiness. The Lord has bestowed on the Church the gift of scripture, sacraments, holy places, living communities, the witness of the saints and multifaceted beauty that proceeds from God's love, "like a bride bedecked with jewels" (Is 61:10).

This Holiness to which the Lord calls you will grow through small gestures. In what ways can we show great love through seemingly small things? Like a smile when we don't feel like it, when you are tempted to gossip, think better of it, When one of your children wants to talk about their hopes and dreams and you are tired, you sit and listen anyway.

## **Reflection 2**

Once we take our eyes away from ourselves, from our interests, from our own rights, privileges, ambitions – then they will become clear to see Jesus around us.

~ St Teresa of Calcutta ~

Extract taken from Gaudete et Exsultate:

A Christian cannot think of his or her mission on earth without seeing it as a path of holiness, for “this is the will of God, your sanctification” (1 Thess 4:3). Each Saint is a mission, planned by the Father to reflect and embody, at a specific moment in history, a certain aspect of the Gospel. That mission, has it’s fullest meaning in Christ, and can only be understood through Him. At it’s core, holiness is experiencing, in union with Christ, the mystery of His life. It consists in uniting ourselves to the Lords death and resurrection in a unique and personal way, constantly dying and rising anew with Him. But it can also entail reproducing in our own lives various of Jesus’ earthly life; His hidden life, His life in community, His closeness to the outcast, His poverty and other ways in which He showed His self-sacrificing life.

This is powerful summons to all of us, you too need to see the entirety of your life as a mission. Try to do so by listening to God in prayer and recognizing the signs that he gives you. Always ask the Spirit what Jesus expects from you at every moment of your life and in every decision you must make, so as to discern its place in the mission you have received. Allow the Spirit to forge in you the personal mystery that can reflect Jesus Christ in today’s world.

Let us reflect on how life does not have a mission but is a mission.

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