



# National Newsletter Nov 2020

## TE RÖPÜ WÄHINE KATORIKA O AOTEAROA.

### *Kia Kaha Courage – Take Heart*



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Hamilton: Margaret Brownsey  
Palmerston North:  
Wellington: Susan Lloyd  
Christchurch: Sylvia Mellish  
Dunedin: Anne McRandle

National Board Chaplain:  
Clare Murphy RNDM

*Dear Members*

*Kia Kaha – Courage Take Heart*

Last Sunday I attended Mass at Mt Maunganui. The priest spoke on the gospel of the day, the “Greatest Commandment,” Love God, followed by the second, which is equally important, Love thy neighbour. These two are the road map for our lives every day. He challenged us at the end of each day to ask ourselves, “Have I made a difference today?” I turn this around as my personal mantra, *I can make a difference.*

I have not yet made more than a cursory study of Pope Francis’ latest encyclical, Tutti, but what I have seen suggests the Pope is urging all of us to become better citizens of our own communities and the world. We need to be like the good Sarmatian; to make a difference; to live our moto of Faith and Service.

In recent weeks I have visited members in Taranaki and the Hamilton Diocese. I saw first-hand how you live these commandments. It was wonderful to spend time with so many dedicated, busy and loving members. Both days were very uplifting for me. I thank you all for your support and contributions to the success of CWL.

In New Plymouth I had the privilege to present a life membership to Liz Koorey, WUCWO rep and long term committed member.

We are all saddened by the result of the *End of Life Choice* referendum. Thank you for all the work you did to share our viewpoint and to educate others as to what this Act means for our society. We must now make sure that this does not lead to an eroding of services for palliative care and the feared devaluing of life.

This will be the final National newsletter for 2020. I wish you all God’s blessing for the end of 2020, a joyful Christmas, and a happy New Year.  
In Faith and Service, Susan

## *Women Welcoming Change with Courage*

Many of you will have noted that there is no name listed for Palmerston North in the list of diocesan presidents. The president, Pat O’Connor has resigned due to family illness and commitments. The Palmerston North branches were unable to find a diocesan president, secretary, or treasurer. The branches have agreed to work with the Wellington Arch Diocese in the meantime. Our sincere thanks and prayers go to Pat and all those who have served on the Palmerston North Council in the past.



*Liz Koorey  
New Plymouth and  
Inglewood members*

## From the Wellington Archdiocese – Susan Lloyd, Archdiocesan President

In October we farewelled Judith Devereux (National and Archdiocesan Life Member) and Sister Mary Gordon (Archdiocesan Chaplain), who passed away and remember what they contributed to our Wellington Archdiocese. Eternal Rest grant to them O Lord.

Our Archdiocesan Council convened a Day of Reflection in November facilitated by Joy Cowley. We invited women from all Parishes in the area. The opportunity was taken to welcome our two new Branches (New Plymouth and Inglewood) as a result of the Palmerston North Diocese going into recess. Joy led the day with the topics of “Women in the Gospel,” “Women in the Church” and “Women in the World.”

The At Home Appeal “Days for Girls” has been very much a guiding influence to us, as we have gotten closer to that organization, as part of CWL getting “out there in the community to a greater extent than for some time.” As well as linking our current theme to the topic of “Positive Puberty,” we are embracing an activity that enables us to become more confident in the way in which we challenge ourselves to move out of a somewhat more introverted and comfort-zone approach.

We are holding our Wellington Archdiocesan Conference on Thursday, 18 March 2021 at the Our Lady of Kapiti Centre, Paraparaumu. It has been a challenging year one way and another and we extend a special invitation to any CWL member who may be visiting our area at this time, to join with us. If interested email our Archdiocesan Secretary Karen Saunders on [archdio.sec@gmail.com](mailto:archdio.sec@gmail.com)

**From our Archdiocesan Members to Yours, we wish you all a happy and holy Christmas and may you be blessed throughout 2021.**

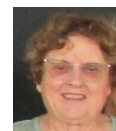
This photo was taken “in Wellington wind” at our last Archdiocesan Council meeting for 2020 – the theme for the day was Pacifica.



Absent Kathleen Emmerson.

## Greetings from Colleen Petricevich

Auckland Diocesan President.



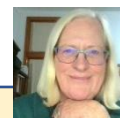
Warm greetings on what has been an extraordinary year for all of us, one that still challenges our faith and hope in God's providence. Many of you have passed through some bleak days, but there have been some unexpected blessings. Mass was wonderful coming to us via TV from the Auckland Diocese web page. I have heard from quite a few people how watching Mass at home, presented by skilful celebrants, has lifted their spirits.

We have also made the most of electronic devices, using email to keep in touch, and calling each other by cell phone. It has meant that some of us have been upskilled in these devices, not bad for our ages!

I want to just mention Fratelli Tutti, the latest Encyclical letter from Pope Frances on fraternity and social friendship. It is well worth getting a copy from Catholic booksellers. We need to keep ourselves up-to-date with Catholic teaching.

Happy Christmas to everyone. I hope we can enjoy the birth of baby Jesus in our world.

Kia Kaha



### A NEW YEAR'S POEM

#### TWO DIARIES

'Tis closed! Within its pages lie the record of the year,

I sit awhile and meditate on what is written there:

The many days of gladness made so by loving friends,

An interval of sadness where Death - a union ends;

A space of lavish beauty with joy in garden bed,

And spells of pleasant memory of certain books I've read.

But - a day I was too thoughtless, and lost a chance to be,

A help to one who doubtless had every need of me.

Selfish moments chain one more often than they should.

But thoughts reveal the better way - and life is good.

I count my blessings joyfully a New Year has begun,

And write in my new Diary, TWENTY, TWENTY-ONE.

By Alice L Austin – Unpublished (This time) Granny of Kathy Bell. (First written in Nineteen Ninety-one.)

## A TIME OF WAITING

Greetings to everyone from Hamilton Diocese.

I realise it has been said so often, that 2020 has been a year none of us expected and our expectations in many cases have been dashed.

Conferences cancelled; Regional days cancelled; lockdowns in our homes and towns; lack of the right products when shopping; delays in getting our driving licences renewed; and the list goes on and on.

Our son was accepted for an AFS scholarship to the United States at the age of 16 and his counsellor in preparation gave him this motto to live with for the year "Always travel without expectations". It stood him in good stead, and we have tried to follow that mantra while travelling life's highways.

As I write this, we in Hamilton are in a waiting time to host President, Susan, for her visit which replaces her coming to Diocesan Conference and also the country is waiting for the results of the referenda.

It is difficult to know what that outcome will be but I think that if the votes are 'Yes' for both the End of Life Choice and legalising recreational cannabis use, New Zealand will make a massive social change as a society. I have been really impressed by the parts of Pope Francis' latest encyclical that I have been able to read and also Cardinal Dew's comments in N Z Catholic. "Fratelli tutti" is an exhortation to treat all people equally in an act of "brotherhood" and "sisterhood". It is his call following "Laudato si" asked us to care for our planet which he referred to as "our common home" that we must now care for those of us who populate it if we are to survive.

Surely, this confirms our role as Christian women and members of the Catholic Women's League.

We have the opportunity to share our love for the vulnerable by joining hands with other groups such as St Vincent de Paul, Family Life International, Sisters of Compassion and Caritas who also care for the deprived.

Sometimes waiting is associated with fearful trepidation such as the spread of the corona virus, but other times, that waiting can be in joyful anticipation. Advent is the latter. As we await the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, we know this anticipation will be fulfilled as we celebrate our salvation in Him.

*May you all be blessed with a holy and joyful season and rest in the Lord.*

*Margaret Brownsey Q S M, President.*

*The Interview: Margaret Fletcher.*

*Colleen Butcher, Council treasurer:*

*Interviewer; Moira Kilbride, Council V P.*



## Postscript: Fulfilling the expectation.

Members from 12 branches of Hamilton Diocese gathered recently to workshop with our National President, Susan and to launch "Te Puawaitanga- the blossoming".

Susan was accompanied for the day by Board member, Colleen McMurchy, who compiled this wonderful resource for branches and who has been appointed as the Tikanga Maori advisor.

We experienced a wonderful day of fellowship, sharing ideas in the Cafe Session about membership, promotion and Mission

There was much valuable promotional material on display consisting of banners, posters, flyers, and prayer cards. It also included a leaflet produced locally for a Regional meeting, which gave a 'potted history' of our patron, St Margaret Clitherow, foundress, Margaret Fletcher and the beginnings of CWLANZ.

From the time we all were photographed after the Mass, the atmosphere was open, honest and rewarding.

Colleen gave great examples of how Te Puawaitanga can be used and Susan related how she visited Cambodia for the charity run named the "Hagar Run for Freedom," which was sponsored to aid work to prevent exploitation of people.

The wait since the cancelled Diocesan Conference till this gathering was certainly worth the time.

*Margaret*

*Colleen addressing the knitting circle: Val Townley (knitting) Colleen Butcher*



*Bible Quiz Anne Hammersley, Mission Convenor*

*Writing Limericks Tokoroa branch. L to R Helen Flintoff; Connie Nelson; Nora Williams; Patsy Hill.*

*Colleen "visualising" Sharing prayer resources.*



## Reflection of 2020 from CWLANZ Dunedin Diocese



*The highlight of our 2020 year would have to be the CWLANZ Dunedin Diocesan Life Membership presented to Tui Pasco at our August meeting. A leading Catholic woman who represents*

*Faith and Service across the Diocese. Having held Branch, Council, Board positions, plus National President.*

*On reflection, this year has been like no other, starting with the disappointment of having to cancel our Diocesan Conference last April. We finally came together at our Regional meeting to incorporate our postponed Annual General Meeting. Having to miss the July Board meeting because of family illness but knowing others would step in for me was really appreciated. I didn't miss out on my first zoom meeting with the follow up meeting being held in August. Coming to the years end, with still events to be arranged has been a challenge. Even the elections have had many changes. Family life has had to cope with limited contact and in some cases no contact over many months, special occasions, with limited numbers, separation from our elderly and the anguish this has caused; especially in death / funerals for families. The relevance of our theme, KAI KAHA COURAGE-TAKE HEART who would have thought these words would have such a powerful meaning throughout this year. During these months we have reflected on the importance we have had to STOP, LISTEN, SHARE, and step up to what is important.*

- Step 1 select an issue.
- Step 2 get everyone on board.
- Step 3 review what has come together.
- Step 4 happy with the results.
- Step 5 able to go forward with this result.
- Step 6 if the answer to no. 5 is Yes.

### CONGRATULATIONS

*If the answer is No, go back to step 1. Try again.*

*"Kai Kaha Courage-Take Heart"*

*Have a "Happy Christmas" to all our Catholic Women's League. We look forward to 2021.*

*In Faith and Service,  
Anne McRandle, Dunedin Diocesan President.*

*"As the year comes to an end, don't look back on yesterday's disappointments. Look ahead to God's promises yet to unfold."*

## WUCWO Report

Hopefully your WUCWO rep passes on the panui (newsletters) that I send each month along with the full text of WUCWO President General's newsletter from Rome. Communication that is extending into digital technologies, active engagement and mutual listening, and the inclusivity of women in the Pope's encyclicals have been the focus of my last 3 panui.



A reminder that WUCWO is now 110 years old. It would be awesome if each branch made a pictorial display of the great works CWL members engage in and organise these to be shown in Church foyers after mass or in Parish halls during other parish gatherings in February or March next year. We should be proud of all our activities and this is one way to invite other women in the parish to join us in Faith and Service.

The March edition of *Women's Voice* arrived last week. It will be followed quite quickly by the next edition – both having been held up at the printers during Covid19. There are a series of articles based around the theme Holiness and calls to action. One of the articles By Maureen Meatcher from the National Board of Catholic Women, England and Wales, reminds us that Pope Francis states "*we are impelled to contribute to the public discussion of social issues, not only as involved citizens, but also because of the Christian understanding of what a just and sustainable society looks like*" (p.20). I am confident the two recent referendums have seen us reading and engaging with others in debate about the social issues of Cannabis and End of Life Choice. No doubt by the time you are reading this we will know how the majority of New Zealanders have voted. The article referred to highlights the following

*It is our responsibility as citizens of the world to monitor what our country is doing to enable every person to enjoy their human rights (p 22)*

A sharp reminder that we are not just an organisation that bakes cakes and sews for our mission station and *At Home Appeal*, or a group that socially supports Catholic women, but we also have a responsibility to speak out and act in social justice and human rights issues.

Kia kaha – Courage. Take Heart

Colleen McMurchy

CWLANZ International Officer

# Māori Whakatauki (Proverb)

## He taonga rongonui te aroha ki te tangata

This Māori proverb translates as *Goodwill towards others is a precious treasure*. It has links to Māori values of *Aroha* (love) and *Manaakitanga* (caring, generosity, hospitality).

These sentiments resonate well with our Catholic beliefs – our faith is underpinned by goodwill to others and guides our actions and our behaviour. Matthew's Gospel (22.37-39) tells us after loving the Lord with all your heart we shall "love your neighbour as yourself". As Catholic Women's League members we constantly show compassion for others, we care for those in need, we are generous, we enjoy the company of whanau and friends, we respect their rights and dignity, we support them when they need it most. We reach out to others; we show them love in many ways. Make a list of all the ways that you and your branch show love and goodwill. Value your precious gifts.

Ma Te Atua e manaaki koe (May the Lord care for you and watch over you)

Na

Colleen McMurchy

## Curtains Drawn - Angels borne *Sylvia Mellish - Diocesan President Christchurch*

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. The Rosary is often termed the greatest prayer of the Catholic Church. It is a contemplative prayer usually recited to implore a favour from God for the recovery of a loved one from illness, a special intention, a thank you to God, a prayer for peace or just a prayer that every Catholic knows. How fitting that we meditate on the mysteries of joy, sorrow, glory and light as we pray. This month I have recited the rosary almost daily as I sat by the bedside of a friend who was dying and placed her own rosary beads in her frail hands.

This month, I have attended two vigil rosaries. The first for our CWL diocesan chaplain, Fr John Morrison and the second for CWL honorary life member and friend, Pat Duncan, prior to their requiem masses.

How lucky we are as Catholics, to have this wonderful (and tactile prayer thanks to our rosary beads) at times of need. Fr John was chaplain to the Christchurch diocesan league for over 20 years. He was a wonderful chaplain, committed to faith and service and he loved the League and what we stand for. His monthly reflections at our council meetings were always stimulating and inspiring. Following Father's requiem, it was so lovely to see our guard of honour in recognition and thanks for his contribution to our diocese. Members from all branches wearing their badges and holding their banners in front of them, formed a guard of honour, from the doors of the pro cathedral to the hearse, as Father John was carried out.

Last week, a requiem was celebrated at St Itas here in Rakaia, for Pat Duncan QSM. It was a great comfort to see so many of our members in attendance especially when I called them to come up to the altar to surround Pat's casket as we read, especially for her, the league prayer for the deceased. Pat was an honorary life member of the Rakaia branch of the League. Pat was also the recipient of the papal medal, Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice. She had held all executive positions of the League and was also the Loan League Convenor of the diocese until she resigned a few years ago due to a decline in her health. Pat's entire ninety six years of life were spent committed to the league where she touched so many lives.

"She worked generously to fulfil the mission of the League and live out its motto of Faith and Service."

I think these occasions, sad though they are, epitomise the faith and service of our League members as we celebrate their lives on earth, and pray together for their journey to an everlasting life with God. May Fr John and Pat rest in eternal peace. Let us never forget that mortality is but a fragile part of life, as we continue to serve God in faith and service and support each other on our own journeys.



**Remember: Time to send in nominations for the Mission At Home Appeal 2021 and Special grants**

**National Board Vacancy: National Mission Convenor, we MUST fill this position. How about you?**