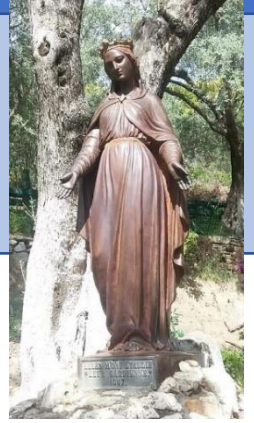




# National Newsletter

## *Kia Kaha Courage – Take Heart*

May 2020



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### The “Day” the World Changed

Living in a post Covid – 19 world

Throughout history there have been events that have changed the world forever. We are living through such a time. Three months ago, many of us knew very little about the threat of this pandemic and few would have believed how it would sweep around the world causing such sickness, death, economic devastation, heartache and hardship.

On the first day of lockdown at Alert level 4 we entered a new era. We can be forgiven feelings of pride at how New Zealand has handled the pandemic. To be proud of the sacrifices made by individuals for the common good. However, we can not kid ourselves. The road back to recovery will be long and for many hard and challenging. The lockdown has served to exacerbate inequality within New Zealand and to feed the ever-widening gap between rich and poor.

Many Catholics are saddened by the restrictions on attending Mass and receiving the Eucharist. One thing this lockdown has reminded us is that the Church is not a building.

An online Mass will never be the same as joining in community worship with a priest at Mass. What it is, is an opportunity to pray, to be open to the grace so freely offered to us. Across the world as in NZ we have found other ways to stay connected, to support each other, to love our neighbour and our planet. Parishes must look for ways to use their resources to help the poor and vulnerable. Not just money but to fight for social justice.

Hopefully, it will not be too long before we are able to meet again in person. However, we may find that many of our members may not be ready to leave their homes for some time. Keeping the connections will continue to be a high priority.

Many of us have been forced to become familiar with social media, video chat and conferencing. Post Covid – 19 this could be more and more the way of the world.

We pray that these restrictions will not last long and the social damage of the hit to the economy does not go too deep. God Bless, “Be strong and courageous” – Joshua 1:9 *Susan* [cwlanz.nat.president@gmail.com](mailto:cwlanz.nat.president@gmail.com)

Some things I hope we have learned over the past two months and can put into practice after the lockdowns

- Life is not just about me. I hope the sense of togetherness, of working together, a team of 5 mil survives
- Be critical of the news. What is the science saying?
- People are amazingly creative. There are many different ways to do things. Let's embrace working in different ways.
- We all need some fun in our lives.
- I and many other New Zealanders live a very privileged life. How can we work together to ensure everyone lives a better life? We don't need stuff. We have survived the retail stores being closed and many have been through their cupboards and closets getting rid of unnecessary items. Focus on needs not wasteful wants.
- People are important. When this is over, we need to keep reaching out to others. Send cards to those who cannot connect online. Take people who live alone on drives or outings.
- Somebody pays for my safety. The economic hit has led to unprecedented calls on foodbanks and a dramatic rise in unemployment. Become a regular donor. Lobby the government for social justice.

## AN APRIL TO REMEMBER

**Hamilton Diocese** successfully completed its Annual Meeting On-Line and within the time restraints of the Constitution, despite the Level 4 and Level 3 Lockdowns caused by the arrival of Covid 19 into New Zealand. 12 of our 13 branches participated.

My sincerest thanks go to Secretary, Kathy Bell, who developed the process and led each branch through it with simple, easy to follow, instructions. There were possibly some members who normally would not be able to attend Conference who were able to take part.

We have a new Diocesan Mission Convenor, Anne Hammersley who replaces Maria Hoebbers who, in her one year term was able to assist branches to re-connect with parts of the Solomon Islands thanks to her personal experiences there with her husband.

The meeting approved a Recommendation regarding the status and rights of appointed Secretaries and Treasurers which will be brought before the National Board in July.

My personal recollection of this April will be the time when I have had to obey the politicians and consequently lost my feeling of being "in control." Dependence on others for our basic needs for my husband and I have been a total reversal of my way of life. I miss the spontaneity in the supermarket when the basics have been purchased and the friendly exchanges that occur there. We are fortunate to have a young man who became our 'adopted' son several years ago and he is a shopper supreme. Thank you, God, for Doug.

Our branch, and I am sure others as well, were ready to spend out time out there selling raffle tickets for the At Home appeal.

Small things, such as the chance to be in the garden for the autumn clean-up has me "champing at the bit" as we have no method of disposal until the landfills have opened again. It has been a scary experience of loss of independence but fortunately, it has an end in sight.

Enough of the hardships..... I have felt privileged to be able to 'attend' Masses and have chosen Tongariro Catholic parish in Taupo where Monsignor Murray celebrates in the parish church rather than in a chapel. Our heartfelt gratitude must surely be given to the priests and bishops throughout our country who are offering the Eucharist to us daily through the wonders of technology and giving us this wonderful gift. I specially appreciate when the celebrant prays the Prayers of Intercession as it makes me sense that we can have personal intentions joined with them

BUT..... it is lonely. I have become much more aware of the Eucharist as the community celebration of thanksgiving. My soul is longing to be part of a congregation again. Christine and the Archdiocese' Daily Reflections have been most thought provoking and prayerful. That daily thought has been sustaining. Many of our members from Tokoroa and other parishes experienced, just in time, the witness of Catholicity alive when we attended the Ordination of

Bishop Michael Gielen. The celebration of this 'once in a lifetime' faith ceremony, ritual and splendour was a tribute to the many cultures that make up New Zealand's Catholic community. Tokoroa members went with especially fond memories of Bishop Michael's formative years of faith in our parish and we had the privilege of being welcomed by him personally and his family. May God bless his years of leadership.

*Margaret Brownsey, Hamilton President.*

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**Dare I say** how much I have enjoyed being in lockdown. Fortunately I have not been on my own having my husband with me and also having our youngest daughter, son in law and two grandsons living in the same town we have not had to worry about buying our groceries especially with Warren being an essential worker he has had access to the supermarkets and chemists at any time. I have enjoyed the peacefulness and calm at being able to stay home. Being able to sleep in and relax, not having to rush off to the gym for a class or going out for meetings and appointments has been wonderful.

Trying new recipes, reading lots of books which I have had beside the bed, knitting lots of squares for blankets and walking along our rural roads have been some of the ways I have kept myself busy. One thing I have done which has been very satisfying has been to help my husband build a fence – a post and railing fence which he says has been 38 years in the making!

I think I have discovered that there are things which I need and things that I want but not necessarily need. Being able to make do with what we have is another lesson I have learnt and it has caused me to plan our meals and try to make them interesting and varied.

Being able to watch Mass twice on a Sunday – firstly from the Cathedral in Palmerston North and if we missed that time we could then watch it on Shine .It did feel strange at first especially saying or singing the responses with just 2 people rather than being surrounded by a group of people but I have enjoyed being able to attend Mass and feel very fortunate and grateful that this service has been made available to us.

Keep safe, keep strong and keep your distance.

Patricia O'Connor Diocesan President Palmerston North

### Mothers' Day Lockdown style

Methven branch members took out their mothers' fine china cups, made scones from a recipe on Facebook, and joined in a virtual morning tea thanks to the electronic wonder of Zoom



## Colleen McMurphy Ponders the Lockdown

### Lockdown Mass

- Enjoying being part of the mass celebrations online but feeling a bit guilty about my first time I discovered how to 'get into it'. On a Sunday morning about 9am I was lying in bed in my nightie exploring who might have a mass broadcast during the day and what time. I clicked on to a picture of Father Peter Tipene and his mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Auckland began and as I wasn't sure if this was it or if I could join it again at a later time so I just went with it. Whoever thought in a million years that I would attend the celebration of mass in my nightie!
- Auckland Missions Convenor Sr Margaret said her little community (her home bubble) were enjoying Mass everyday broadcast from various places including from Christchurch and one day they tuned in to a mass said in the Philippines.

### Lessons learnt

- I think mother Papatūānuku (earth mother) is telling she wants a rest from the awful way we have been treating our planet and this virus is giving us an opportunity to sit back and reflect on how we can better look after our planet and each other in the future

### For CWL

- Maybe we could have a blog branch pan-national with periodic face to face get together for younger women who are too busy to attend regulate meetings?

### I have enjoyed ....

- Competitions of creative endeavour on TV like mum dancing competition, best of lip sinking, dads dancing etc
- Watching innovative ideas how sports people and families have adopted their sport activities to keep fit
- Using social media to keep in touch e.g. Facetime with the grandchildren, Skype Friday Happy Hour with my son and his wife
- The Student army – how Uni students throughout NZ have formed support groups to shop and do messages for the 'single bubble' or elderly
- I discovered [www.spendmysuper.or.nz](http://www.spendmysuper.or.nz) where I can choose a charity of my choice from a list of 10 to donate a one off from my Super or give on a regular basis to others who may have needs greater than mine
- Walking and exploring around the neighbourhood without having to worry about cars on the road if I widen my bubble or cross over to avoid other walkers
- Seeing families doing things together like riding their bikes, playing sport or doing innovative activities
- Seeing people on TV or other social media sharing the innovative things they are doing

- Daily broadcasts by the A team – Ardern and Ashley – keeping us up to date with clear information
- How we have come to appreciate the 'not so great' or previously 'important' people in our lives like supermarket workers, store stackers, delivery drivers, health workers and so on
- Trying new 'simple to make' recipes from the Herald or Nadia or Jamie
- Keeping some of my connections alive through Zoom e.g. Book Club, committee meeting
- Seeing 'Made in NZ' products on Facebook so we can support 'local' and discovering there are some wonderfully creative people out there
- Time to work on my computer in peace
- The kindness of people everywhere
- Exploring my neighbourhood on foot as I walk past places I only ever race past in my car!
- Working to my own pace and timetable without having to get dressed up and race off to meetings, sessions, etc
- Catching up on jobs I long promised I would do

### I have missed

- Hugging my whanau
- A decent coffee
- Fresh crispy bread
- A big fat meaty Burger King/ Berger Fuel hamburger
- Going out to dinner



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.

[#biblicalhumour](#)

[#laughteristhebestmedicine](#)



### Every girl

### Every period

Great to see the government has included period poverty within the 2020 budget.

## Reflection for CWL. May 2020

We live in extraordinary times.

An issue that may be intruding: watching Mass on TV.

There are two main responses that I've heard.

The first is from those who see Mass as something to be watched or heard. So see nothing incongruous at attending a televised Mass. There are even some who kneel in front of the TV.

There are others who do not watch Mass, they use this enforced separation to reflect on what the Mass means, they recall the message of Pope Francis in the document, Beloved Amazon, about the people in such places and around the world where Mass is never, or rarely available. Some spend the time trying to become more familiar with the Word of God, particularly the New Testament.

So let's consider the meaning of the Eucharist Action that we call Mass.

At the last supper Jesus gathered with his friends, including his betrayers, and in an evening meal, took the bread and in a symbolic gesture he tore it. Then he said, this bread is my body given for you. He repeated the action with the wine.

In those words he signified how he saw his life, as a labour of love and commitment. Of a life given to the work of God. That mission was to bring hope, unity, care to all people. To show that God was a loving parent only concerned to bring each person to fullness of life, not just as individuals but as a community, embracing all without exception.

We gather in community to hear the word of God and to rededicate our lives to the same mission.

We are commanded, *Do this as I have done.*

As we experience a threat to each other, all peoples, through this Virus we see hundreds of people responding in service; healing, comforting, feeding the hungry. In a multitude of ways we find our brothers and sisters, regardless of divisions, fulfil the words of the Beatitudes. In these actions we hear an echoing the story of Creation, and God saw it and it was good.

Tricia.rsj.

*Circumstances have changed for Sister Tricia. We are saying thank you and farewell from her role of National Board Chaplain.*

*Dear Tricia*

*We will miss your spiritual guidance. You challenged us to look carefully at what we believed and to be prepared to share with others. The board has valued your calm reasoned discussion, wisdom, and support.*

*All the best for whatever path God leads you on in the future. Susan*

## Wellington Arch Diocese WHAT MEMBERS DID IN THEIR LOCKDOWN FROM REGIONAL REPS:

- Walking and dropping off goodies to other members who were housebound.
- Bear Hunt observations.
- Ringing other members offering help such as shopping and "just to have a chat".
- Swapping jigsaws.
- Delivering Branch Newsletters.
- Delivering the Dominion Post daily.
- Keeping an eye on one Member whose husband passed away during Lockdown.
- Exchanging reference re daily online Masses, Reflection etc to those who have Computers.
- Anzac morning – a number of members went to the end of their drives/letterboxes at 6am and reported on the lovely sound of bagpipes in the distance.
- Skyping family members.
- Charity knitting. Some thoughts that helped us all stay connected!

## Sylvia Mellish reports from Christchurch Diocese

The month of May is the promotion month of the Catholic Women's League. This year will differ from most in that we won't be able to publicly promote the League with presentations at churches in our parishes etc so I felt it was time to pat ourselves on the back for a change, to let each other know what we have been doing in these unprecedented times of lockdown and then when the bubbles burst and we can throw away the keys, we will have a record of this amazing time in history. The theme chosen for the League at our Board meeting in February was, "Kia Kaha. Courage. Take heart". When choosing this theme for the ensuing two years, we had no idea of the significance it would have in the months to come. The Holy Spirit was definitely moving within us. On March 26th, 2020, NZ went into lockdown. Our churches were closed. Our Diocesan Conference and the National conference were cancelled. We had no idea of when we would physically meet again. Our Bishops and priests took the initiative and Mass began to be live streamed on-line. We began the Novena to 'Mary Undoer of Knots' for the nine days leading to Easter.. Rosaries, and liturgies were prayed online. Video calling became the norm. Postings were placed and viewed on our Facebook page. With our motto firmly in mind, so began a flurry of 'faith and service' of a slightly different, yet still the same, 'faith and service', of the Catholic Women's League in the Christchurch Diocese, as we busied ourselves with activities at home, in and from our bubbles..... Members contacted other members,. They checked on the self-isolated, the vulnerable and other members of their parishes as often as possible, even if it were with just a cheery phone call to check on their wellbeing or to see if they needed anything. Thank you all for your wonderful efforts. May God bless you all as we move forward together, in faith and service, Sylvia. (Christchurch Diocesan President)

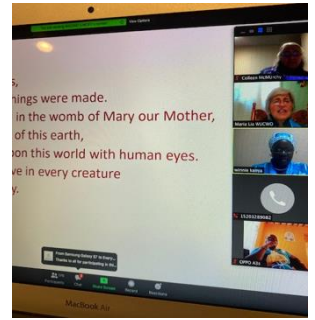
## Joining Spiritually and Virtually with Catholic Women around the globe

### Together on-line

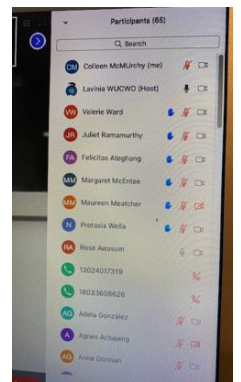
WUCWO Day on 13<sup>th</sup> May probably passed us by this year despite each branch receiving some beautiful prayers and a service written by women from Latin American and the Caribbean Region. With no CWL meetings in May because of the lockdown I urge members and branches to hold a WUCWO session together in June as we missed May.

As well as celebrating at branch level this year for the first time Catholic Women League members from around the globe were invited to join an international Virtual Cenacle on May 14<sup>th</sup>. This gathering was extra special because with Covid19 we were not able to physically celebrate with members and branches in our usual face to face context. Utilising modern technology, namely ZOOM Catholic women were invited to join this international Virtual Cenacle online.

About 190 women from various countries Italy, South Africa, UK, USA, Malta, India, Swaziland, Nigeria, NZ, Australia, Canada participated in the WUCWO Day Virtual Cenacle online. Two of us from New Zealand joined the link at 11 30pm. We were welcomed initially by two young office staff from the Rome Secretariat and talked through the various ZOOM tools so we could see, hear, speak, and write our thoughts as participants. WUCWO President General Maria Lia Zervino facilitated the session from Rome supported by Fr. Gerard Whelan, Ecclesiastical Assistant who gave a reflection on the Gospel reading John 15:1-8. Four women from India, Tanzania, England, Kenya lead the prayers. It was a really beautiful uplifting experience. As participants we were able to type a sentence on what WUCWO means for us and also a short prayer during the session. I felt a nice little tinge when President General Maria Lia read out my prayer “for solidarity with Catholic women across the globe and caring and love for women and their families everywhere”.



For those not familiar with ZOOM meetings you register to join the meeting and when you log in you can see the leader of the meeting or main speaker on the screen. Other participants are shown in rotating little snap shots along the side or top of the screen, and if no one is holding the floor little snap shots of others in the session can be seen. Down the side there is a revolving strip showing the names of those involved. Below this you see a series of ‘chat’ contributions – thoughts participants



have typed coming up like text messages. It was really exciting when I saw Diane Glynan’s prayer from Wellington and to read other’s prayers. We finally signed off at 1am, tired but exhilarated!

### Celebrating 110 years

May 2020 marks the beginning of celebrations for WUCWO 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. With 100 Catholic women’s organisations worldwide, active in 66 countries and representing more than eight (8) million Catholic women of every walk of life we are indeed blessed to be sharing our prayers, our spirituality, our humanity and our caring.

As Catholic women in NZ Aotearoa it would be great to celebrate 110 years of WUCWO. CWLANZ Board will be discussing how we may do this and we would welcome any suggestions or ideas that you may have. Please feed back to your Council, our National President or myself.

*Kia kaha – Courage and Strength*  
*Colleen McMurphy*  
*CWLANZ International Secretary*

Correction. Sorry, there was a missing number in the CWL NZ Facebook group link recently sent out to branches

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/424755138334794/>

### Competition

Design a poster illustrating our new theme

*Kia Kaha*  
*Courage - Take Heart*

Send all entries to [cwlanz.nat.president@gmail](mailto:cwlanz.nat.president@gmail.com)  
Or [cwlanz.nat.secretary@gmail](mailto:cwlanz.nat.secretary@gmail.com)  
Closing date for entries: 22 July