

## YESTERDAY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

In July 1916, in the midst of World War I, a small group of visionary young women were given the impetus by Father William Lockington S.J. to form an organisation of lay Catholic women to create a more just society and bring Catholic principles to bear upon legislative and administrative bodies. On 1st October 1916, more than 2000 women attended the first meeting of the Catholic Women's Social Guild (as it was then known) at Cathedral Hall in Fitzroy. Branches of the League opened in the Diocese of Ballarat in 1917, the Sandhurst Diocese in 1925 and the Sale Diocese in 1926. At the invitation of Most Rev F. Henschke, Bishop of Wagga Wagga, branches of the League opened in that Diocese in 1947.



The League's first Committee included ground-breaking professional women such as Dr Eileen FitzGerald, Anna Brennan, Maud O'Connell and Julia Flynn. The inaugural President of the League was a gifted and visionary young doctor called Mary Glowrey who later, as Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart JMJ, placed her life at the service of the medical and spiritual needs of the people of India. The preliminary phase of her cause for sainthood began in Bangalore, India, in November 2010.

Wanting to have a voice in safeguarding the interests of women and children, the fledgling League secured representation on many public bodies including the Relief Committees, the World Disarmament Committee and the State Royal Commission on Children's Welfare. League members were also appointed as Probation Officers and Magistrates in the Children's Court. The League also lobbied for improved working conditions for women, set up soup kitchens to feed striking workers and their families, established a seaside rest home called Santa Casa for children and ran a hostel for young women workers from the country.

Since then, members of the League have played a dynamic role on the local, national and international stage. Many of the special works begun by Dr Mary Glowrey and her colleagues continue to this day.



## HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The League was founded by young women who sought to change the world through prayer and action. We are still working to make the world a better place. If you would like to help us make a difference, please contact our General Secretary via e-mail at [cwlvicw@bigpond.com](mailto:cwlvicw@bigpond.com) or at:

Mary Glowrey House  
132-134 Nicholson St  
Fitzroy, Victoria, 3065

Membership costs \$20 a year and these funds benefit the work of the League. We have branches of the League throughout Victoria and Wagga Wagga.

If you would like to be involved, but cannot attend branch meetings on a regular basis, you may wish to join as an Associate member. Please contact our General Secretary at [cwlvicw@bigpond.com](mailto:cwlvicw@bigpond.com) if you would like more information about becoming a member. For information about your local branch, please contact:

We can also help you start a Branch of the League in your parish, school or workplace.

The League is a work of faith, an expression of the concrete love of God for all human persons. The members of the League move always, and unashamedly, from a foundation of prayer. It is prayer that empowers the League members in their attempts to be bearers of life, hope and dignity to others, and it is prayer that has enabled these attempts to continue to bear such abundant good fruit in the lives of so many.

The work of the League is dedicated to the Holy Spirit and Our Lady, Help of Christians.

Email: [cwlvicw@bigpond.com](mailto:cwlvicw@bigpond.com) Phone: (03) 9417 3379  
Website: [www.cwl-vic-ww.org](http://www.cwl-vic-ww.org)

# The Catholic Women's League

OF VICTORIA AND WAGGA WAGGA

*She has put out her hands to strong things • Proverbs 31:10-31*



## OUR WORK



### Mary Glowrey House

The headquarters of the League is located at Mary Glowrey House, a spacious Victorian home ideally situated at 132-134 Nicholson St. Fitzroy, opposite the beautiful Carlton Gardens. This facility also provides short-term, low-cost accommodation for people from rural and regional areas undergoing medical treatment or visiting relatives in city hospitals.

### Social Questions

Addressing social justice and ethical questions is one of the primary tasks of the League. We seek to influence legislative and administrative bodies at all levels of government in order to preserve the dignity of the human person. The League also actively promotes a culture of life. Our members engage in debate and action about issues such as human rights, poverty, gambling, prostitution and the trafficking of women and children. We also investigate the repercussions of contemporary concerns such as violence against women and children, substance abuse, advertising standards, childcare, euthanasia, the sexualisation of girls in the media, post abortion trauma and reproductive technologies.



### Missions

For many years, League members have provided financial aid and material support to missions in the Northern Territory, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, Kiribati and other Pacific Island nations, India, Kenya and Tanzania.

### Welfare

The League provides financial aid and support to women and children in the community including educational scholarships, clothes for premature babies, 'Wrap with Love' blankets and care packages for refugees in detention centres.

### The Horizon

The Horizon is our official magazine. It has been in continuous publication since 1916. It contains spiritual reflections and keeps our members up to date with the workings of the League at all levels.

### Anima Education



This is a joint project of the Anima Women's Network and the League which provides affordable and accessible, adult education and formation in the Catholic faith. These courses are attended by a wide variety of people of all different ages and faiths. Our teachers are also available to give courses in parishes or for groups.

## WOMEN UNITED IN PRAYER AND ACTION

Every member of the League in Victoria and Wagga Wagga has a 'national' and 'international' voice through our affiliation with the Catholic Women's League Australia (CWLA) and the World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO).

### Catholic Women's League Australia (CWLA)

We are a member organisation of Catholic Women's League Australia. It has consultative (Roster) status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

CWLA is dedicated to upholding the dignity of women through education and encouraging their participation in social and public life. The CWLA promotes the spiritual, social, cultural and intellectual formation of women. CWLA also advocates for the respect of human rights with a particular focus on women and children.

Elected convenors keep members up to date regarding the issues affecting our society both locally and internationally. Reports are prepared by our Bioethics and Social Issues Convenors. We are represented by our National International Secretary at the Commission on the Status of Women Sessions held at United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York each year.

## World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations (WUCWO)

Founded in 1910, WUCWO now represents 100 Catholic women's organisations worldwide with a membership of more than 5 million women. WUCWO's aim is to promote the presence, participation and co-responsibility of Catholic women in society and the church, in order to enable them to fulfil their mission of evangelisation and to work for human development.

WUCWO has consultative status with the United Nations and is represented at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in New York and Geneva; the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) in Rome; the Human Rights Council (HRC) in Geneva; the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in Geneva; and UNESCO in Paris. WUCWO is also present at the Council of Europe.

WUCWO was the first international Catholic organisation to receive UN recognition as an NGO. WUCWO was also a force in the creation and adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. In 2006, WUCWO was erected by the Holy See as a Public International Association of the Faithful. In October 2010, WUCWO celebrated a century of service by women for the Church and society at their Centenary Assembly in Jerusalem.