



**THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF ENGLAND &
WALES CIO**
CHARITY WORK LOYALTY
NEWSLETTER



*Seasonal
Craft by
Morpeth
Section*

DECEMBER 2023

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Life is certainly gathering apace leading up to Christmas! I always want to savour the lead-up, but it's always upon me before I feel I have had time to appreciate it!

We have decided to extend the monthly newsletter to include more news about what is happening in the League as we only produce three editions of the magazine each year and so much happens in between!

So, in my last message of 2023, may I wish each and every one of you a very happy and holy Christmas. I hope you have an opportunity to relax, meet up with family and friends and eat the finest food.

Siobhan x

Spring Meeting on Zoom – Saturday 24th February 2024 10.30am to 12.30pm

The Zoom room will be open from 10am to allow a prompt start at 10.30am. We hope to be joined by our new National Chaplain, Bishop Philip Moger as well as discussing issues relevant to the League and giving an opportunity for you to put forward your questions and views.

Summer Day – Saturday 22nd June 2024 – times to be confirmed

We will be visiting the Ripon Wayside Shrine which belongs to the League and entertaining you with food and talks. Coaches will pick you up from central York to allow you easier travel options and the opportunity to extend your stay in York, if you so wish.

AGM and National Conference – Friday 11th to Sunday 13th October 2023

Deciding on the location of the AGM is always difficult. We're so aware that what suits some on terms of location, will suit some and not others and some will want a weekday meeting, whilst others will want a weekend. As we went to High Leigh this year, we have decided to go to The Hayes next year and, as it was a weekday meeting this year, we are holding the AGM on a weekend next year. Hopefully, that will give most of our members the opportunity to join us at least once every two years. We are always looking for new locations, so please feel free to let us know about possible venues that can accommodate at least 150 people at the cheapest possible price!

Magazine – Our third magazine for 2023 has been printed and distributed. Thank you to everyone who contributed to it. We are always very grateful to receive your news. Please keep the flow of articles coming in readiness for our next edition. You can find all the past editions of the CWL magazine on our website at catholicwomensleaguecio.org.uk.

Quiz time! – Around 30 members joined the first of our national quizzes on Zoom on 17th November. We had great fun and the winner of the most prestigious of prizes – CWL Quiz Champion for November 2023 was Vee Comparini, Westminster Branch President. Our next quiz will be on Friday 15th December at 7.30pm, so please come online to join us!

Welcome to our new Greenford Section! – The first meeting of our new Section of Greenford Section in Westminster Diocese will be on Monday 4th December where mulled wine and mince pies will be served. Huge thanks must go to Kayla who has made all the arrangements and has gathered a group of interested ladies together.

In the press – Some of you will subscribe to The Universe. If you do, we have an article on page 30 of the 25th November edition and we hope that we will have an article published on 2nd December. Please send Jean news items that can be adapted for submission to The Universe and can be added to our website in the ‘What we’ve been up to’ section.

Forthcoming Events – You are all wonderful at letting us know what you have been up to, but very shy when it comes to letting us know what you are about to get up to! We have a ‘Forthcoming Events’ section on the CWL website with no CWL events on!

PACT Carol Concert – PACT are holding their carol concert at Our Lady of Victories in Kensington High Street, London on Tuesday 5th December at 7pm and at Our Lady and St Brigid’s Church, Northfield Birmingham on Thursday 7th December at 7pm. If you would like to attend, please go to the CWL website (Forthcoming Events) and click on the link.

Holy Rood PACT Packs – Watford Section assembled 125 PACT packs after the 11am Mass on Sunday 19th November. Parishioners were encouraged to donate the contents for the packs over a five week period which was an opportunity to demonstrate the scale of charitable work in which the League members participate.

Message of the WUCWO President General, November 2023
An urgent call to safeguard the world we live in

"...with the passage of time, I have realized that our responses have not been adequate, while the world in which we live is collapsing..." Pope Francis (LD 2)



Please look out for a separate email from the National Secretary with Pope Francis’ full message.



Several ladies at the AGM asked for a copy of the **Our Father Dialogue** which Margaret and Anne read during Prayers. Anne composed this some years ago to use with her RCIA group on the subject of prayer and she is happy to share it! It can be easily adapted/ changed. It will be attached to the email the National Secretary will send with Pope Francis’ message.

An Advent and Christmas message from Pact

Theresa and Marie at Pact send greetings and a big thank you to CWL members for your AMAZING support:

How beautiful that so many people leaving prison are receiving a backpack of essential items provided by members – including woolly hats for these colder days. Imagine how it feels to walk out of the gate perhaps with no-one to meet you, not sure where you are going to sleep that night, but somehow hoping that you can make a fresh start.

Christmas is a tough time to be in prison or to have a family member inside. A record 100,000 children across England & Wales will spend Christmas without their mum or dad because they are in prison this year. Some of our brothers and sisters inside will receive a stitched Cross in my Pocket from their prison chaplain – handmade by CWL members.

People affected by imprisonment tell us that knowing someone cares about what happens to them, means a lot.
Thank you to CWL members for your inspirational demonstration of ‘caring with love’.