



Catholic Women's League News



MAR/APR 2026

Issue No: 169



He is Risen

*Faith in Action
Serving with Love*



MARCH / APRIL
2026



CWL Newsletter Guidelines for Submissions

1. Please submit One Article per Diocese/Archdiocese
 - The article should be a diocesan report, reflecting activities and events across the diocese.
 - The article should provide an overview of key CWL activities within the diocese.
 - Focus on notable events, charitable works, spiritual initiatives, and significant achievements during the reporting period.
2. Formatting & Submission
 - Submit articles in Word format (.doc or .docx) - We cannot edit PDF's.
 - Use clear, concise language and avoid lengthy paragraphs.
 - Include high-quality photos with a caption.
3. News should not be older than 3 months
4. Deadline for Submission
 - Articles must be submitted by the 6 July 2026 for inclusion in the next Newsletter. Late submissions may not be included.
5. Where to Send
 - Email your article to cwlnatnews@gmail.com with the subject line: CWL Newsletter - [+ Diocese Name].

By following these guidelines, we can ensure a well structured and informative newsletter that truly reflects the work of the CWL across our dioceses.

Thank you for your cooperation!

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Monica Santamarina

WUCWO News

Congratulations to Monica Santamarina, The WUCWO President, who has been appointed as a Consultant to the Dicastery for Interreligious Dialogue at the Holy See. This body of the Holy See is responsible for promoting and co-ordinating relationships between the Catholic Church and the followers of other religions. Ultimately this co-operation of different religions can foster peace, justice and fraternity amongst people.

She shares: "I am grateful for the Dicastery's trust and will continue learning and praying for guidance in this new stage. I also thank WUCWO for its work promoting dialogue, focusing on what unites us rather than what divides us".



A Word from the National President



It is rather difficult to believe that we have hit March running! Our Lenten Journey is almost behind us. I must say that after reading all the reports submitted for our March magazine, I certainly feel the "vibe" in the CWL. You can pick up some good ideas from these articles and learn to work with other branches too! The spirit of the Catholic Women's League has always been rooted in charity, work, and a deep generosity of spirit. These values remind us who we are and what we are called to do in our parishes and communities. Throughout the year, our members live this mission in many ways. From organising Christmas parties for those in need, to supporting parish events, to gathering for meaningful retreats that renew our faith and friendship. Each act, no matter how small, becomes a living example of Christ's love in

action.

As we look ahead, recruitment is an important part of our journey. Inviting new members to join the CWL ensures that our work of charity and service continues to grow. Fresh voices, new ideas, and willing hands strengthen our ability to reach out to others.

The CWL is more than meetings and events; it is a community of women united by faith and a shared commitment to service. Together, through generosity of spirit and dedication to charity, we continue to answer the call to serve.

May 2026 be an exciting, interesting and rewarding year for all members of each branch of the CWL in eSwatini and South Africa. God Bless you all for the work you are doing in the name of the Catholic Women's League!

Women of the Resurrection: Bringing Light to the World

Fr Jerry Browne

There is a beautiful poem by Maya Angelou that goes as follows: "Out of the huts of history's shame, I rise. / Up from a past that's rooted in pain, I rise / I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide, welling and swelling I bear in the tide. Leaving behind nights of terror and fear, I rise. / Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear I rise / Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, I am the dream and the hope of the slave. I rise / I rise / I rise."

These powerful words speak of resilience, dignity, and hope. They echo a truth that lies at the very heart of the Christian faith: that from suffering and darkness, new life can emerge. The poem's repeated refrain — "I rise" — resonates deeply with the message of Easter, the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

At Easter we celebrate the most significant moment in human history — the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Easter story proclaims that death does not have the final word. Hope is stronger than despair, and love is more powerful than hatred or fear. Because Christ is risen, a new future has opened for humanity. The empty tomb is not simply a moment from the past; it is a living promise that continues to shape the present and guide the future.

The message of Easter reminds us that no situation is beyond God's grace. Even when circumstances appear hopeless, God is still at work, quietly bringing about transformation and renewal. The Resurrection invites us to believe that every moment carries the possibility of new life. Faith, hope, and love are not abstract ideas; they become real when they shape the way we see the world and the way we treat one another.

Looking at our world today, it is easy to see why this message is so important. Communities can become divided by politics, prejudice, and fear. Families sometimes struggle with misunderstanding and wounded relationships. Many people quietly carry burdens of loneliness, anxiety, or discouragement. In such moments it can be easy to lose sight of hope.

Easter speaks directly into this reality. The risen Christ reminds us that light is always stronger than darkness. It invites us to believe that healing is possible, that relationships can be restored, and that new life can emerge

where we least expect it.

One of the most beautiful aspects of the Easter story is the role of the women who went to the tomb on that first Easter morning. They set out before dawn with a simple act of love in mind. They wanted to honour Jesus and care for his body. They were not expecting miracles or extraordinary revelations. Yet their quiet fidelity placed them at the centre of the greatest moment in Christian history. They became the first witnesses of the empty tomb and the first messengers of the Resurrection.

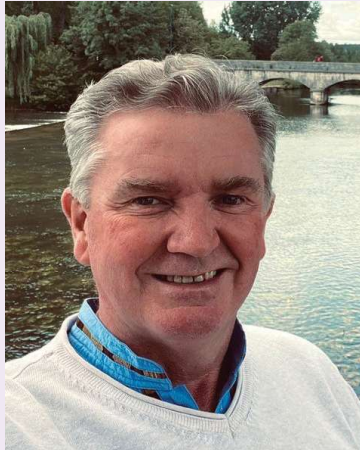
Their example reminds us that God often works through simple acts of faithfulness. The extraordinary frequently begins with something very ordinary: a gesture of kindness, a word of encouragement, a willingness to serve.

That same spirit continues in our communities today. The work of the Catholic Women's League offers a beautiful example of this living faith. Through dedication, generosity, and quiet commitment, members bring warmth and unity into parish life. Gatherings are organised that strengthen bonds of friendship and belonging. Charitable initiatives reach out to those who are struggling. Welcoming spaces are created where people feel valued, heard,

and included. Such service may sometimes seem small in the eyes of the world, yet in the light of the Gospel it carries profound meaning. Each act of kindness becomes a sign that Christ is alive among his people. Each moment of compassion becomes a reflection of the love that flows from the empty tomb.

Easter therefore calls every Christian to rise — to rise above indifference, to rise above division, and to rise into a deeper life of faith and service. When people work together with generosity and trust, small acts of goodness begin to change the atmosphere of a community. Gradually, the night gives way to dawn.

As we celebrate this Easter season, may the light of the Resurrection renew our hearts. May our parishes and communities become places where people encounter welcome, kindness, and hope. Through lives of loving service, may we continue to carry the message of Easter into the world.





News from the Diocese



BLOEMFONTEIN

Botshabelo Recruitment Drive

In December 2026, the Botshabelo Recruitment Drive was a Spirit-filled success for the Archdiocese of Bloemfontein. Led by the Diocesan President and supported by CWL members, visits to Kriste Tshupo ya Rona and St Raphael parishes resulted in 8 and 5 new members joining, respectively. The drive completed outreach to all Botshabelo parishes, marking a historic milestone of growth, unity, and renewed commitment. The day celebrated fellowship, dedication, and the joy of expanding the CWL community.



Bloemfontein Archdiocese Chaplain Priesthood Anniversary - 16 December 2025

Fr Thabo Edward's 11th anniversary serving as a priest was celebrated by his community. The CWL also spoilt Fr Thabo, the Bloemfontein Archdiocese Chaplain, for his birthday on 24 January 2026

Annual Memorial Mass - 25 January 2025

On Sunday, 25 January 2026, the CWL Bloemfontein Archdiocese held its Annual Memorial Mass at Christ the King to honour both the living and departed members.. During the Mass, the newly appointed Secretary, Me Noba Moletsane, and News Correspondent, Me Motsheoa Finger, received their badges and blessings. The Archdiocesan Executive Committee were also blessed during the ceremony.



Council Meeting

On 7 February 2026, the Archdiocesan Committee and branch executives held a council meeting at St Joseph's Catholic Church in Wepener. The meeting was opened by St Joseph's president, Mme Puleng Lemaona. The diocesan president, Mme Mpho Ntema, lead a productive and informative meeting.

The highlight was a presentation by, Mme Ntsatsi Dingaan-Mokushane, on Tuckman's stages of team development. She explained the five stages-forming, storming, norming, performing, and adjourning-emphasizing their relevance to effective teamwork and leadership.

The council also discussed several important matters such as establishing teams to lead the GBVF Desk and a recruitment subcommittee aimed at growing League membership within the Bloemfontein Archdiocese.

The President emphasised the importance of staying focused, learning continuously, and not losing sight of the work we are called to do.

After the meeting members enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by the ladies of St Joseph's Catholic Church.



ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Toiletry donations to teenagers

Through a special outreach initiative, the CWL women organized the distribution of sanitary pads and rollers to teenagers in need - a simple yet life-changing gesture aimed at restoring dignity and confidence . The group was honored by a visit from Doctor Maboreng Maharaswa of Sacred Heart Cathedral, who commended the women on their unwavering dedication to both the church and the community.





News from the Diocese



Cleaning of Mission House

On 2 December 2025, the All Saints Catholic Women's League dedicated a day to serving their Parish Priest and community by cleaning and organizing the mission house. The women transformed the space. Their efforts were deeply appreciated by the Parish Priest and showcased the CWL's commitment to service and living out their faith.



Donation of Cleaning Material

On the 1st of February 2026 The CWL of All Saints made a generous donation of cleaning supplies for the church. This was accepted and blessed by Fr. Kenke. Their efforts were celebrated as a joyful demonstration of service, kindness, and dedication to keeping the church well cared for.



ST MARK CATHOLIC CHURCH

Priesthood Celebration

Celebrating priesthood Sunday honours the vocation, dedication, and spiritual leadership of priests. On 16 October 2025, St Mark's CWL celebrated with Fr. P. Ramakatsa.. He received a gift and special prayers. After Mass, members and Fr. Lebofa met at Mme Florence Mokoena's home for fellowship together.



Please spread the prayer to family and friends to create a united, powerful voice against Gender Based Violence.



Catholic Women's League

Prayer for an End to Violence Against Women, Children, and All Vulnerable People

Loving God, Creator of all life, you made each person in your image and likeness.

We bring before you the pain of women, children, and all who suffer from violence and abuse.

Pour out your healing Spirit upon hearts wounded by fear, pain, and betrayal. Touch the deep places of past trauma, restoring hope where trust has been broken.

Heal also the hidden hurt within those who cause harm, that they may be freed from anger and transformed by your mercy.

Strengthen our resolve to stand with the vulnerable, to speak where silence reigns, to bring an end to all violence, and to build a world where love and justice prevail.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Visiting the sick

Visiting sick members at home or in hospital is an important act of compassion and emotional support. The CWL visits members who are unable to attend meetings or events, including Mme Leepile, who has been absent for a long time due to ill health.



*The more we care,
the better the world becomes.*



News from the Diocese



Birthday Celebration

Celebrating birthdays is an important time for gratitude, reflection, and renewal. It allows individuals to thank God for life and growth. On 29 November 2025, ladies born between 1 July and 31 December celebrated their birthdays together. They all contributed to the venue and food, making the celebration meaningful and joyful.



On the 7th of February 2026, Fatima CWL reached out by donating clothes to the needy at Phase 6 which reflected their commitment to serve the community and to uplift the less fortunate.

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me." - Gospel of Matthew 25:35-36



Introducing a new member

Although two members resigned to join other sodalities, the group welcomed a new member, Mme Rethabile Matuka (Mokokoti) on 1 December 2025. The CWL expressed gratitude and confidence that her youth and fresh ideas would positively contribute to the organization.



Gift for Brother Ikenna

St Mark Parish was blessed by the arrival of Brother Ikenna, who introduced new initiatives, especially focusing on youth ministry and Bible teaching for parishioners. The parish rejoiced when he was ordained as a Deacon and presented him with a gift in appreciation.



On the 6th of December 2025, Fatima CWL joyfully celebrated Priesthood Day in honour of the beloved Priest, Fr Lesenyeh, together with Brother Masimong and the Oblates retired Priests, Fr Mosia Motsiri and Fr Thabang Molefi at Oblates' House. It was a beautiful occasion filled with gratitude for their faithful service and dedication to God's people.

"The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honour, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching." - First Epistle to Timothy 5:17

On the 7th of December 2025 Fatima CWL joyfully celebrated a special moment of gratitude and unity as we asked the Lord to strengthen, guide and bless Fr Lesenyeh in his ministry. We were reminded that priests are called to serve with humility and compassion, reflecting Christ's love to all.



"And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding." - Book of Jeremiah 3:15

OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Women's League proudly embarked on living out their motto of Charity and Loyalty through dedicated service in our community.

"Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." - Epistle to the Hebrews 13:16

On the 26th of December 2026, Fatima CWL extended love and compassion by donating groceries and money to one of their own members who was in need. Through their kindness and willingness they demonstrated the importance of caring for one another and living out their Christian values in practical ways.

It was a touching reminder that the Church community is a family that supports and uplifts one another in times of difficulty.

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfil the law of Christ." - Epistle to the Galatians 6:2



generously donated R1100.00 towards the needs of the Oblates House.

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." - 1 Corinthians 13:13



News from the Diocese



Token of appreciation

On the 2nd of November 2025, our President proudly received a Certificate of Participation for getting position 4 during the Parish Mojekelo. This special recognition was a testament to the League's dedication, commitment and active involvement in the life of the Church. The occasion was a joyful moment for the entire League, as we celebrated the achievement and thanked God for her leadership.



"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters." - Epistle to the Colossians 3:23

SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL

Sacred Heart Spreads the Sparkle

The Sacred Heart Cathedral CWL didn't just deck the halls this season they covered three towns. Acting as Santa's regional representatives for the OVC community, the Sacred Heart Cathedral CWL stretched its outreach from Botshabelo to Thaba Nchu without forgetting Bloemfontein. Caregivers across all three regions were surprised with food hampers, thanks to collaboration with the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the ever-supportive Knights of Da Gama, who supplied hot dog rolls and juice. The ladies prepared and decorated the venue the day before, pouring their time, effort and personal budgets into the initiative. In fact, they sacrificed their own year-end closing celebration to make this outreach possible.



Rain or Shine, the CWL Makes a Plan

"And let us not grow weary in doing good, for in due season we shall reap, if we do not give up." - Galatians 6:9

Come rain or shine, the Bloemfontein Sacred Heart CWL lives by the motto "...maak 'n plan," trusting in God's guidance and remaining steadfast in service. On 15 December 2025, the CWL hosted its annual Seniors' Tea with Jesus Moments, a much-loved event through teamwork, dedication and faith our seniors were warmly welcomed and felt truly valued.



A Double Blessing: Seniors' Tea at Both Parishes

The CWL of the Sacred Heart Cathedral hosted a similar Seniors' Tea at St Joseph's which serves as the Cathedral's outstation. The Seniors' Tea is therefore not a single occasion, but a double blessing. To ensure the same high standard of hospitality, the second gathering was scheduled a fortnight later. At both venues there was warm laughter, lively conversation, and heartfelt fellowship.



Christmas Party

KRISTE BOPHELO BA RONA



On 30 November 2025 the CWL at Kriste Bophelo Ba Rona generously celebrated with their parish priest, Fr. Thabo Mmolaoa OMI. They donated a slow cooker to the priest and also prepared a special lunch for the congregation in honor of the children receiving their First Communion.

"You can learn great things from your mistakes when you aren't busy denying them."



News from the Diocese



MOFUMAHADI MAMOHAU CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Catholic Women's League (CWL) at Mamohau marked 23 November 2025 with a generous gesture of donating clothes to seven children celebrating their First Communion. Their kindness made the occasion even more special.

EMMAUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

On 10 January 2026, Emmaus held its Annual General Meeting, attended by all executive members, to plan for the year ahead and to empower members. The parish invited neighboring parishes, including St Peter and Paul, Mamohau, Kriste Tsepo ya Rona, St Charles, and St Raphael to encourage and support newer parishes. Emmaus also organized a birthday fundraising event to support the needs of the CWL. The CWL further extended its generosity by donating school shoes to Siyathokoza and Emmaus Parish.

CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC CHURCH

Following beautiful mass the Corpus Christi CWL began 2026 on a generous note by donating pre-loved clothes and school uniforms to families in need. Their kindness is already making a meaningful impact on the community.



KRISTE LESEDI LA DICHABA CATHOLIC CHURCH

On 25 December 2025, Krete Lesedi la Dichaba celebrated Christmas by giving gifts to the children. Each CWL member contributed an item to add to a special packages for every child.



ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

We were privileged to present Christmas gifts to our young ones, creating a truly joyful and vibrant atmosphere with many smiles. These gifts symbolize more than generosity - they affirm that each child is valued and deeply loved by their church family.



ST CHARLES LWANGA CATHOLIC CHURCH

St Charles Lwanga CWL's charity drive to distribute sanitary pads to support the youth, was a great success. Thanks to all who contributed to spreading love and to uplifting our community!



ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC CHURCH

The CWL from St Francis Catholic Church in Thaba Nchu recently held a charity drive to donate groceries and clothing to orphaned children in the community. The outreach brought great joy to the children and put bright smiles on their little faces.





News from the Diocese



CAPE TOWN



Diocesan Executive Committee

The Catholic Women's League, Archdiocese of Cape Town, held their year end lunch, hosted by the Table View branch, at The Italian Club in Rugby on Saturday 29 November 2025. The ladies first attended Mass which was celebrated by our Diocesan Chaplain, Father Nkululeko and con-celebrated by their parish priest, Father Rohan Smuts who also played the organ at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church in Brooklyn.

GOODWOOD



CWL Goodwood preparing and handing out sandwiches to people looking for work on the roadside. They also served sandwiches at the Goodwood day hospital.

KHAYELITSHA

A beautiful day well spent at Eikendal Wine Estate, where Khayelitsha CWL ladies had the joy of treating their beloved parish priests - Fr. Nodana Tshuma OMI and Fr. Gabriel Msoka AJ - to a lovely lunch and wine tasting. Surrounded by laughter, fellowship, and the beauty of creation, they were reminded that celebrations are most meaningful when they honour those who serve us with such grace and devotion.



The ladies of the CWL Khayelitsha Branch were blessed with the opportunity to pour love, time, and presence into the little souls of the Masigcine Children's Home in Mfuleni, Cape Town, at their 3rd Annual Christmas Party. In this sacred Advent season our visit reminded us that giving back is one of the purest forms of worship.



KUILSRIVER



CWL Kuilsriver packed beanies and booties for 3 hospitals. The ladies are seen handing it over to Groote Schuur, Tygerberg and Karl Bremer hospitals. The goods were very gratefully received.



CWL Kuilsriver ladies were at Tygerberg Hospital on the 19th November to hand out beanies, knitted jerseys and baby clothes at the Premie ward. The goodies were gratefully received.



CWL Kuilsriver held a rally together with their parishioners on 11 October.



A healing service breakfast was hosted by the Kuilsriver CWL ladies on the 4th November.



CWL Kuilsriver celebrated the end of the year with a braai at Katrentjies Drif.



News from the Diocese



The Ladies from CWL Kuilsriver went to visit Street Scapes yesterday and handed out groceries, sanitary towels etc. They encouraged the planting of veggies and seedlings for an extra income that will keep them off the streets.

LANGA

On Sunday 26th October, Langa CWL celebrated Priesthood Sunday with their Priest, Fr Geoffrey Mawa. They also enjoyed lunch with him.



CWL Langa held their Annual Bazaar at St. Anthony's. They had a successful day which they shared with the parishioners of Langa.



On Tuesday, 30th December, 2025, Langa CWL visited Langa Cheshire Home and dropped toiletries and tinned goods for the patients there.

MACASSAR

CWL Macassar handed out 6 of these parcels to needy families, of their parish, at Christmas 2025.



On 26 December, 2025 Macassar celebrated 20 years of the Dedication of the Feast day of St Stephen, Macassar. The celebrant was Fr Godfrey, assisted by Fr David de Freitas and Deacons Allan and Stephen. Everyone enjoyed a lovely feast afterwards.



PAARL

The Ladies from CWL Paarl celebrated Priesthood Sunday at all 3 churches in Paarl in October 2025 with Fr Emmanuel and Fr Francis.



Paarl CWL donated a delicious cooked meal for 40 youth campers on Saturday 7 February when they went on their annual retreat.

PAROW



CWL Parow had their first meeting to gear up for 2026. Their Parish Priest, Father Dominic, graced them with a visit. His role was discussed at the WWDP being held at their Parish. He shared Psalm 23 and the significance of this Psalm was discussed.



News from the Diocese



PLUMSTEAD



Plumstead CWL kicked off the year with a lovely breakfast. Fr Diego and 6 interested ladies joined in. Many plans for the coming year were discussed.

At the beginning of the school year Plumstead CWL donated stationery to St Anthony's school in Heathfield. The principal, Ms Lynette Reinecke was delighted with the donation.



RONDEBOSCH



Rondebosch CWL members cooking a Sunday meal for the homeless.



The ladies of CWL Rondebosch celebrated together after their final meeting and a busy and productive year. Well done ladies.

RETREAT

Retreat CWL, in conjunction with the parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, had a stationery drive and the response was overwhelming!! 4 Primary schools in the Retreat area received a donation of stationery for all grades.



What a wonderful way to start a new year! Rondebosch CWL met for breakfast at Kelvin on a Saturday morning and caught up with all the news from the past weeks. They are looking forward to a fruitful year together.

TABLE VIEW

The Table View CWL evening-group packed 29 bumper Christmas stockings, beautifully made by Carol Thomas, for the Cheshire Homes in Milnerton. Each resident received a bag filled with toiletries and a sweet treat for Christmas.



CWL Table View Evening-group supplied a group of needy pensioners with R1200 worth of groceries.

ROCKLANDS

St Stephen's Rockland's are seen celebrating Priestwood Sunday with their priest by spoiling him with a lovely lunch





News from the Diocese



The CWL Table View evening group is donating a bumper hamper of baby toiletries, nappies, blankets and clothing to Mater Domini.



On the 10th of January the Lovely Ladies of the Catholic Women's League of Table View, celebrated with the newly Ordained, Reverend Lloyd Langford as a permanent Deacon. He will be serving the Table View and Melkbos communities. The Ladies organised a tea and refreshments for 350 dignitaries and parishioners after the Ordination Service, presided by Bishop Sylvester David.



The CWL morning-group had a Valentine's tea where there was lots of food, games, laughter and love.



CWL Table View evening-group donated foodstuffs, toiletries, school stationery and a large quantity of adult clothing, shoes and baby goodies to the victims of the devastating fire at DuNoon. The goods were delivered to the Milnerton Fire Station where they were gratefully received.

DURBAN

The Diocese of Durban started the year on a good note by arranging a retreat that was very fulfilling. Our Chaplain Fr S Ndlovu spoke to us about FORGIVENESS. The retreat was very well attended. Also the Diocesan team went to the nearby Diocese of Mariannhill to conduct a workshop with the executives of both diocese.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH



How it all started...

18 years ago the Soup Kitchen initiative was started. This is a vital resource for many vulnerable individual in the area because it can alleviate hunger and provide consistent support to those relying on our services. One good Samaritan bought us a 3x3m container from which to operate. The late Mam Madubane (CWL Honorary member) was the founder of the Soup Kitchen. Nowadays Mrs. Liz Walker, Gift of the Givers, different sponsors, fellow Parishioners and sodalities contribute to the operation of this initiative. The Container is situated in the Church Space.

The commitment from all members, who always use their time and energy, does not go unnoticed and it is deeply appreciated.

On 18 January 2026 Miss Jabu Gcaba and Mrs Nomusa Magubane received their 10 year service badges. Four members were also inducted and active members renewed their vows.





News from the Diocese



ST MICHAELS PARISH

St Michael's Catholic Women's League has kicked off the year by embracing the season of love with a special Valentine's Day raffle initiative.. The campaign not only celebrates Valentine's Day but also promotes unity, generosity and service - values central to the mission of the Catholic Women's League. Proceeds from the raffle will go towards supporting the work of the Catholic Women's League at St Michael's Catholic Church.



We began the new year on a spiritually uplifting note with our branch retreat, themed "Growing in Faith," held on Saturday, 31 January. On Shrove Tuesday hundreds of pancakes were made for our parish pancake evening.

UMNDENI ONGCWELE PARISH



Our last branch meeting was amazing. Members donated eats, so we could end our year on a high note.

It is part of our CWL culture to take care of our Parish Priest. We celebrated Fr M Mncwabe (OMI) birthday at Lupa Osteria Westville, Fr Mncwabe joined us along with Fr Z Gumede and two Brothers that were assigned to our Parish. Fr Mncwabe was indeed really grateful.



OUR LADY OF FATIMA

27 boxes of bottle tops, 9 boxes of bread tags, 1 of coffee lids and 1 of can rings were sent off to Sweetheart Foundations for wheelchairs. Two Christmas hampers were made up and won by two lucky parishioners. Hampers for the moms in the maternity ward at King Dinizulu are donated annually and on the same day we treat the children in the TB wards with a Christmas party. Our annual Advent wreath-making workshop hosted by CWL brings our Advent journey and fellowship together. Our own CWL nativity set is placed in Durban North library for the period of Advent. Our year ends with a Christmas lunch in our parish hall. Our first meeting of 2026 started off successfully. We have 10 new ladies from our parish who have shown interest in the league.

ST CLEMENT PARISH

The Clermont branch recently extended a generous hand to children from disadvantaged homes through the donation of new school uniforms. The beneficiaries were identified from among our parishioners at St. Clement Parish and our outstation, Bl. Benedict Daswa. The initiative known as Pata Fund was a heartfelt demonstration of community support and compassion, which brought joy and renewed confidence to the children.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

We were deeply saddened by the passing of our long-serving spiritual advisor, Fr Pierre Lavapierre, on 5 December 2025. May his soul rest in peace. November was a busy and fruitful month as we prepared for our jumble sale and Christmas Gift Bag Project. The gift bags were delivered to the Open-Door Crisis Centre Place of Safety, along with a monetary donation to help ensure the residents - mostly victims of gender-based violence - enjoyed a special Christmas. The Christmas Hamper Raffle was a great success as was our Christmas Party for our CWL members. Several members helped at the Parish Tuesday Feeding Scheme's Annual Christmas Party. Our monthly donations continue to assist with purchasing of essential items for food parcels and weekly sandwiches. Generosity makes a tangible difference in the lives of many.

UMNDENI ONGCWELE PARISH

There was a sad start to the year for Hammarisdale branch. We lost one of our Honorary Life Member Mrs Bertha Ndaba, who started the Hammarisdale branch and served the CWL for 63 years. The Ndaba family were very grateful for the CWL contributions for the funeral.





News from the Diocese



GQEERHA

Gqeberha Diocesan Council

The Gqeberha Diocese was approached by Caritas to collect wool for their "Caritas Network" Project. Sheila Thyse our National President who was invited to our Diocesan meeting is seen here with our Diocesan President Esther Ndaba and our Vice President Pauline Hall with the wool collected from our various branches at the meeting.

We are looking forward to many a ball of wool to still be collected for Caritas. We look forward to many future collaborations with Caritas.



San Francisco Catholic Women's League

We served tea on Saturday, 29th November, for the Confirmation of our Parish Candidates, as well as on Sunday for the First Communicants.

Our final Bingo evening took place on 27th November. On Saturday, 6th December, we served a delicious hot Christmas Lunch and Trifle for the Senior Citizens of our Parish. Each guest received a small gift and the background music was enjoyed. Our thanks go to Nora Puggia for kindly hosting the year-end workshop at her home.

After a wonderfully busy 2025, our branch Christmas party took place on 10th December. We enjoyed a lovely restaurant meal where gifts were exchanged amid plenty of laughter. It was very special to have Father Sonny join us for the evening.

Thanks to our dedicated, once-a-month, workshop ladies and the incredible generosity of our knitters, we were able to make a meaningful difference in many lives. We donated knitted jerseys and beautiful knitted teddies, knitted bed socks, jerseys and beanies.

We also put together baby parcels, given to Mothers at Dora Nginza Hospital. We have catered for funeral teas, First Holy Communicants, Confirmation and the Caravan Lunch for the Priests. A few ladies attended the World Day of Prayer at Mater Dei.

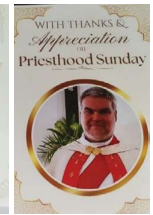
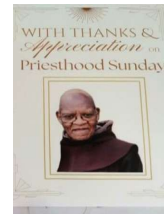
ST. MARY'S

We assisted during the closing Mass of the Jubilee in October, which was attended by our three different parishes in Grahamstown. Here are some of our ladies with Bishop Vincent Mduzuzi Zungu of the Port Elizabeth Diocese



Priesthood Sunday

We blessed Fr. Rogers and Deacon Berenisco with a special prayer in their ministry. Asking God to bless them with wisdom and guide them with humility to serve in the sign of hope, unity and love. Gifts were handed to them as a token of our appreciation of their unwavering love and support to our parish.



Reona Burger was inducted as a new member on Sunday, 14 December. Our vice president Marilyn Haywood pinned her with her membership badge.

Some of our ladies attended the DCWL annual party in Port Elizabeth with the theme "little black dress". We had a lovely evening with all the diocesan branches.



ST BERNADETTE'S

We have continued to assist our parish by providing tea and refreshments at funerals and the donations we have received helped us to support our monthly charities. Our members have also been busy knitting and sewing items which are gratefully received by Missionvale and the Sisters of Mercy in Addo.

At the end of our annual Forty Hours Devotion - a highlight on our parish's calendar - our members treated the priests to a special lunch in celebration of Priesthood Sunday.

In November, we helped provide teas for the First Holy Communion candidates and the leftover cool drinks were donated to St Anne's Educare Centre.

ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHEDRAL

Confirmation reception, 2nd November 2025

The reception for four of our candidates was held at MacSherry hall. CWL coordinated refreshments and prepared gifts for the candidates. It was a joyful day.



Confirmation candidates with Fr Jerry Browne



News from the Diocese



Lunch for the needy, 16th December 2025

CWL worked with SVDP in planning and serving Christmas lunch for the needy. It was a blessing to spread the joy. We thank our parishioners for generous donations as well as thanking the youth for lending a hand on the day. The youngsters welcomed our guests with a drink!



We enrolled 2 new members. Our President Maureen Methula in the middle mama Elias and mamaMahe

Pancake Sunday, 15th February 2026

Our CWL opened the year with a fundraiser in celebrating Shrove Tuesday, with a parish pancake sale on Sunday 15th February.

SACRED HEART

We catered for three funerals during December and January. Members packed goodie bags which we handed over on the 31st Jan 2026 to The Rape Crisis Centre. Our "love boxes" project is always a huge success providing three school in the Northern Areas with "Love" Boxes. These were handed out at the beginning of Jan 2026. CWL did the Rosary Devotions before every weekend mass during January. Our first soup kitchen for the year was held at the beginning of Jan.



CHURCH OF RESURRECTION

The Silver Jubilee of our Chaplain went well. It was a three day celebration on the 10th, 14th and 15th December. We are selling a flash disc of the three events at R300 and the proceeds will support renovations and repairs of the Priest's house.

A Requiem mass was celebrated in honor of Florence Macanda our Honorary Life member. Each member donated wine suitable for use at the masses.

ST MARTIN DE PORRES

Priesthood Sunday was celebrated and the parishioners spoilt Father Davis with gifts and donations. The Priests' Caravan lunch was held on the 17th November 2025. The CWL ladies prepared and served lunch in the parish hall for the Clergy.

The ladies assisted with funerals. We held our AGM on the 8th February 2026 where new members were welcomed and they committed themselves to serve CWL with pride and dignity.

EAST LONDON

We ended 2025 with a successful Christmas Lunch held at St. Francis Xavier's church hall. I had the honour of attending the induction of 3 new ladies at St. Peter Clavers CWL branch. What a blessed day we had celebrating these new members to the league.

Sadly we lost 4 members due to illnesses. We started our new year with all branches having their first meetings and AGM'S. All planning for the year is well on the way and wishing all the branches a prosperous and blessed New Year.



On the 9th September 2025 we donated sanitary pads to a school in Bhalasi and 5 packs each were given to about 50 girls.

ST JUDE (OUR NEW BRANCH)

On Christmas day we had a Christmas Hamper Raffle, below are the 2 winners of the hampers.





News from the Diocese



ST. PETER CLAVER



High Tea



St. Peter Claver's new members



Regional dinner

JOHANNESBURG



On the 19th of October the Sacred Heart CWL branch celebrated their 25th Anniversary and three members received 25-year service badges, one her 10 year badge, and 2 enrolments into the League.

On the 16th of November the ladies of Primrose hosted a Christmas Lunch for pensioners. 64 Christmas Fruit Cakes were donated to the pensioners.



On the 14th of December, St Albert The Great parish enrolled a new member, Ms Matlotlo Moshoeshoe.



The ladies of Holy Family branch donated toiletries to a young man from their community.



On 29th December the East Rand Region had their year-end meeting, where they collected groceries to be donated to Divine Providence. These were gladly received by Sr Lucy.

Craighall Park branch hosted its annual Christmas Lunch for the REEA Epilepsy Care Centre on 7th December 2025.



Craighall Park branch hosted its annual Christmas Lunch for the REEA Epilepsy Care Centre on 7th December 2025.





News from the Diocese



On 11th December, CWL Craighall Park branch president, Monica Dube, presented cakes to the Mother Teresa Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity. They are responsible for the Winterveldt Charity School in Klipgat, Pretoria.

Victory Park Tuesday & Saturday Groups hosted an Annual Christmas lunch for Senior Citizens in the Parish.



The Johannesburg Regional Council held their Thanksgiving Mass at St Martin De Porres-Craighall Park on Saturday 7th February 2026. Fr. Mabe, the Johannesburg Regional Council Chaplain, celebrated Mass.



On the 30th of November 2025, the South West Region visited and brought gifts to the Sisters of Companions of St Angela in Power Park.



On 15th November 2025, Regina Mundi branch was awarded a certificate of recognition for participation in the Johannesburg Diocese 2025 Rainbow Fete and for raising the most money from their stall.

On 25th January 2026, St Pius X branch did the venue decoration for The Missionary Society of St Paul's (MSP) Annual Feast.



Blessed Gerard Joseph branch distributed sanitary pads to girls and bath soaps to the boys.

St Francis de Sales branch visited Don Bosco to provide groceries and cater for the Grade 7 Farewell Lunch.



St Martin de Porres celebrated anniversaries as well as enrolments.

The South West Rand Region held their Thanksgiving Mass at Our Lady of Africa, Mohlakeng. The mass was celebrated by Rev Fr Bafana Ndlovu (OMI), the Regional Chaplain. He also blessed their new banner. Branch Presidents lit candles and made prayer intentions for their members.



Our Learners at Mary Immaculate Queen Preschool graduated to Grade 1

We hosted a Christmas Party for the learners at our Diocesan project- Mary Immaculate Queen.





News from the Diocese



On 28th February, the Johannesburg Diocese held its Thanksgiving Mass at Regina Mundi. The Catechetical Talk was led by Rev Fr (Dr) Michael Seheri, his teachings focused on the petitions in the "The Lord's Prayer". The Mass was con-celebrated with Fr. Petrus Shiya. The day was spiritually fulfilling and enlightening.



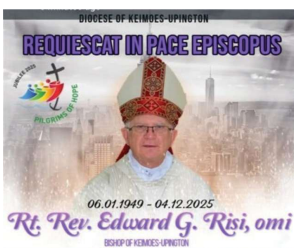
The Diocesan Council Year-end Mass and Christmas Lunch with the Staff and Chaplains.



KEIMOES-UPINGTON BISDOM

Die Keimoes-Upington Bisdom het op 4 Oktober 2025 hul amptelike afsluitingsvergadering gehou. Gedurende Desember 2025 het die bisdom 'n groot verlies gely met die afsterwe van hul geliefde Biskop Edward Risi. Hy is op 18 Desember 2025 te Pella ter ruste gelê.

Biskop Risi was 'n bron van krag en wysheid vir sy bisdom en het 'n diepgaande bydrae tot die geestelike lewe van die gemeenskap gelewer. Sy nalatenskap sal nog lank onthou word en hy sal opreg gemis word. Aartsbiskop Zolile Peter Ppambani, S.C.I., van Bloemfontein is tydelik aangestel as administrateur van die Keimoes-Upington Bisdom.



Die Namakwalandstreek was bevoorreg om die jaar op 18 Januarie 2026 feestelik te begin met die viering van een van hul tuisdorp se priesters, Vader Anthony Cloete, se 45-jarige priesterjubileum. Die Port Nolloth-tak het saam met hom hierdie besondere mylpaal gevier en hul dankbaarheid vir sy jarelange diens aan die Kerk betuig.

Die Oranjerivierstreek het die nuwe jaar ingelui met 'n geestelike retreat wat deur Vader Beukes en Vader Raman aangebied was.

Die retreat het oor 'n naweek plaasgevind en het aan die dames 'n waardevolle geleentheid gebied om weg te breek van hul daaglikse verpligtinge en opnuut op hul geestelike lewe te fokus. Die boodskap van die retreat het die deelnemers aangemoedig om die verlede as 'n leerskool te beskou, die hede bewustelik te beleef en met hoop na die toekoms uit te sien. Die tema was "'n Nuwe Seisoen".

Gedurende 2025 het Boesmanland nuwe lede geworf en sien daarna uit om hierdie lede gedurende Maart 2026 amptelik in te seën.

Die Olifantrivierstreek het laat in 2025 hul Priestersondag gevier. Tydens hierdie geleentheid is hul priester verras met 'n geskenkpakkie en spesiale gebede as teken van waardering vir sy diens en toewyding. Die welwillendheidswerk van die bond gaan steeds voort, en die dames sien met entoesiasme uit na die uitdaginge en geleenthede wat die nuwe jaar sal bring.



Die Olifantrivierstreek het laat in 2025 hul Priestersondag gevier.



Die nuwe lede van die Boesmanlandstreek wat in Maart 2026 ingeseën gaan word.



Die vroue van Namakwalandstreek vier Vader Anthony Cloete se 45-jarige priesterjubileum.



News from the Diocese



Die Oranjeriviertreek tydens hulle retreat in Keimoes.

KIMBERLEY

ST BONIFACE



One of the members of the Parish lost all his belongings when his shack was gutted by fire. Members of the League donated food stuff, curtains, cutlery and also assisted him to apply for Identity Documentation.

ST PETER THE APOSTLE

One of the most joyous occasions, is when you put a smile on someone's face. The ladies provided grocery hampers to 30 families as identified by the church; 28 were handed to parishioners of St Peter's during mass which was celebrated by the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. M Motshwari. The remaining 2 were delivered on 21 December 2025 to the families at our sister Parish, Regina Mundi at Ritchie. One of the Auxiliary members with eyesight challenges, also received a Christmas hamper.



ST CHARLES LWANGA

Some of the CWL ladies accompanied, Rev. Fr NJ Mahatlheng, on 21st December 2025, to one of his outstation Parishes in Holpan. It is a very small parish with about 20 congregants. After mass Parishioners were gifted with toiletries and party packs for the children.



KURUMAN DEANERY

The Ladies of St Cecilia in the Maruping branch visited one of their Auxiliary members whose house was gutted by fire and took her some supplies. There they prayed the rosary with Mrs Virginia Boikang.



ST PETER THE APOSTLE

In collaboration with the Oncology Unit at the Robert Mangaliso Sobukwe Hospital in Kimberley, under the management of Dr Osei-Fofi and Mr Mosala, the ladies vowed to continue raising cancer awareness amongst Parishioners. The unit was visited on 9 December 2025 where they recited the Cancer prayer with the patients and also handed them gifts.



MAHIKENG DEANERY



On 19th February 2026, the Deanery visited and prayed for one of their members who was hospitalised at the Mahikeng Provincial Hospital to wish her a speedy recovery.



Tree planting

In pursuit of achieving the goals of WUCWO, the ladies at St Cecilia in the Kuruman Deanery, planted a tree in January 2026, naming it "Lesedi La One". The ceremony was led by the Parish Priest, Rev Fr. O Sakiya, with a message: "The seed is powerful, but the soil must be willing".





News from the Diocese



ST BONIFACE - KIMBERLEY

Membership growth

A new recruit, Ms Dineo Moheta was welcomed, introduced to the Congregation, and then blessed by the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. N Lempe.



LEBOGANG



On 08 February 2026, two members namely Ms Ikgopoleng Phetlhu and Ms Anastacia Makamole were enrolled. Mass was celebrated by the Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. M. Sekao.

KLERKSDORP

OUR LORD KING OF PEACE AND IMMACULATE CONCEPTION DONATE TO EASTERN CAPE CARITAS

Shall we take our hats off for CWL ladies at Our Lord King of Peace and Immaculate Conception branches?!

We must. Their deeds pretty well explains what " dynamite comes in small packages" mean. Over a period of time, the ladies gathered their pre-loved clothing, blankets, shoes, curtains and nappies. All these were packaged and filled about 12 boxes.



The items were destined for a place many kilometres away, Umthata in the Eastern Cape. Umthata Caritas received the goods with gratitude. The items were aimed at assisting the victims of disaster (floods) which struck the Eastern Cape early in the year.

Not only did they spend their time gathering, packaging and sending the goods, they also spent money to ensure delivery by courier service. Are they not simply the best?

'Big Up' to these Women of God, Women of our Diocese and Women of CWL. They are simply Stars.

ST MICHAEL'S

WE'LL BE HERE, EVERY YEAR, EVERY CHRISTMAS: ST MICHAEL'S CWL

That's what St. Michael's CWL ladies seem to have vowed to. The ladies have continued with their annual tradition of donating teddy bears to children admitted at Potchefstroom hospital. It is always a delight for the ladies to play Santa for the children. They've practised this tradition since 2018, just a few years after being inducted into the CWL. This year CWL Santa landed on the 14th of December 2025. The ladies were led by the chairperson of the branch, Mrs Patricia Khomoetsana.



CATHEDRAL CELEBRATES WITH THEIR YOUNGSTERS

Receiving First Holy Communion is one of the Catholic journey highlights. As usual, the ever hard working Cathedral CWL ladies made the day special for all the children who received their First Holy Communion on the 6th of December 2025. Their charitable spirits came to the fore when they prepared special packages for the children.



ST FRANCIS HOSTS A TEA PARTY

This was celebrated on the 1st of November 2025. Parish Priest Father Cornelius Nkeba was part of the celebrations. The ladies had a beautiful, relaxing day filled with laughter and information that was shared during the proceedings.





News from the Diocese



CWL PLAYS SANTA

Children were spoiled with party packs after Christmas Mass at St Martin's. Supported by their parish priest Father Thabonyana November, the CWL ladies handed the party packs to the little faces in the parish, so much to their delight.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES (WOLMARANSTAD)



After Christmas Mass, the ladies at Our Lady of Lourdes donated sanitary towels to the young girls and other toiletry items to young boys in the parish. In addition to this they also spoilt their parish priest Father Makau with an envelope, contents which is yet unknown.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

It was a feast!!! The three CWL ladies at Immaculate Conception branch made it happen. On the 20th of December the ladies treated their clergy to a scrumptious lunch.



MANZINI

Seminarians send-off

On January 24th of 2026, members hosted a luncheon to send off 5 seminarians to resume their studies at John Vianney seminary. Two other seminarians were sent off earlier on the 17th to commence their studies at Windhoek, Namibia. The luncheon was hosted at Our Lady of Assumption branch with parish priest Fr. Ngwenya to bless and witness the event. Seminarians are hosted annually and are encouraged on their journey by the CWL. They were also showered with monetary tokens and toiletry packs to assist in catering for their needs.



17th January, seminarians to Windhoek send-off at Sikhuphe International Airport



24th January, seminarians to John Vianney seminary luncheon at Our Lady of Assumption Parish

Diaconate ordination

Members of CWL responded to the Manzini diocese Bishop's call for support on the ordination of two deacons at Bulandzeni parish on the 14th of February. CWL made a significant show of presence in their blue outfits. Each Deacon was presented with a monetary contribution by CWL members in appreciation for reaching their new status in the church.



a section of CWL members in attendance at the diaconate ordination at Bulandzeni



Ordained Deacon Mbongiseni Dlamini and Siyabonga Ndwandwe both from Bulandzeni with the Manzini Bishop Jose Luis Ponce de Leon IMC

Christmas hamper bucket distributions

Every December CWL members in most diocesan parishes donate grocery Christmas buckets of a standard hamper size. These hampers are distributed by members throughout the month of February to community out-stations. This charity brings relief and hope to impoverished beneficiaries.





News from the Diocese



Back to school: Christ the King parish donations of school shoes and groceries to vulnerable children



Day of the sick: Sacred heart CWL formed part of the catering team for the day of the sick in Nhlangoon on 22nd February



Visiting the sick: CWL St. Peter and Paul parish CWL members joined forces with other sodalities to visit the sick with Fr. Peterson.



Disaster Relief Programme

The month of November 2025 brought a lot of heartache to families who were struck by disasters that left them hopeless due to damages to their homes. All diocesan branches decided to assist those affected as they were facing a bleak Christmas. Branches collaborated and contributed towards an emergency fund that resulted in R3 500,00 being donated to each affected family.

ST MAGDALENE'S - EZIMBOKODWENI

The branch celebrated the 21st anniversary of the Parish Priest in December 2025 and gifted him with presents to commemorate the day. Coupled with this was a Christmas gift for him and the Assistant Parish Priest as well as goodies for all the children within the branch, on Christmas Day. The ladies of the branch also extended a charitable hand to a parishioner (that voluntarily maintains the buildings and grounds of the Parish) when he lost his wife during the month. They clubbed together and assisted with the Christmas groceries during this difficult period.

STS MARY & ANNE'S - MARIANNRIDGE

On 14 December 2025, the branch organized a Senior Citizens' Christmas party with the Parish Priest in attendance. The celebrants were collected from their homes to attend the party. Following the Holy Mass Service, they were treated to a delicious Christmas lunch and each presented with a food hamper and a R250 voucher. These donations were made by organisations that network with the CWL ladies of this branch.



MARIANNHILL

Sanitary Towels Collection Drive

Following the collection of over 2000 packs of sanitary towels during the Annual Kevelear Diocesan Pilgrimage in October 2025, donations were made to identified beneficiaries (Majola Primary School, uMlazi Place of Safety, Ingane Yami Children's Village and Mother Teresa Place of Safety within the diocese during the November - December 2025 period.



uMlazi Place of Safety

Mother Teresa Place of Safety





News from the Diocese



Executive Leadership Workshop

On Saturday 17 January 2026 we saw all the Executive Committees of all branches within the diocese meet at the St. Joseph's Cathedral for their Executive Leadership Workshop, conducted and facilitated by the Durban Archdiocese Executive Committee under the leadership of Mrs. Loretta Ndelu. They shared knowledge and experiences that will greatly assist in the growth and development of the League within the Mariannhill Diocese.



ST. WENDELIN'S - KWASANTI



An Awareness Day of the Elderly was held on 30 November 2025 with a focus on the destigmatisation of dementia. Invited to educate on this important subject was Sr Lulu Gcaba who imparted interesting knowledge regarding this condition.

The plight of children from disadvantaged backgrounds was heard by the ladies of the branch so 3 primary schools benefitted from the branch's Back-to-School Campaign. School shoes and uniforms were donated to the most needy children.



Apologies to Marianhill. The following news was not published in the Nov/Dec Magazine

MARYHELP PARISH - IXOPO



The ladies of the branch visited a family that they had identified and surprised them with a gift of a wheelchair for their disabled son. These women proved that "through God, all is possible". Overwhelmed with joy, the family acknowledged that this gesture of charity would go a long way in assisting with the daily needs of their son

ST. WENDELIN'S - KWASANTI

Through their garden project, the branch has been able to sell their produce under the auspice of the Parish's Bread Sunday project. The proceeds of these sales go towards the branch's annual contributions to the Parish projects aligned with benefitting the less privileged.



ST ANNE'S - UMZINTO

On Sunday, 03 August 2025, the CWL ladies donated clothes they had collected to the Parish Caritas programme. The impact of the work done by this branch is definitely felt within the Parish community considering that this branch was only launched in 2024.



ST CHARLES LWANGA - KLAARWATER

The branch started a Soup Kitchen. Each Sunday, after Mass, they provide soup and sandwiches to the parishioners. The ladies prepare different soups each week and this initiative is one of the charity works that they do within the Parish.



ST KIZITO - KWANDENGEZI

There is an endless need of school supplies so the St Kizito branch always ensures that the children in need of such, are catered for. The CWL ladies supplied children within the Parish with a pair of school shoes. They also ensured the parish that as and when a need arises, they are there to assist without fail.

"God's plan is always better than your plan."



News from the Diocese



ST MAGDALENE'S - EZIMBOKODWENI

3 August Ordination

The ladies of this branch prepared for the Celebratory Mass of one of their sons who had been ordained as a Priest on 12 July 2025. During the weeklong preparations, the ladies voluntarily took the liberty of providing breakfast and lunch for the planning and organising teams. Additional to this, they also contributed groceries towards the lunch for all the visitors and parishioners present at the ordination.



Sanitary Towels Collection Drive

In 2025, the Diocese held its Annual Pilgrimage which all the branches in the Diocese attended. This is an annual event where the CWL ladies gather to pray, worship and be revived under the guidance of the Diocesan Chaplain- Fr. Cosmas Mzizi.

As part of this year's pilgrimage, the Diocese ran a Sanitary Towel Collection drive which set out a simple yet profound goal: to ensure that no girl or woman in our community would have to choose between education, opportunity and menstrual hygiene.

The response from all branches was overwhelming. Over 2000 packs of sanitary towels were collected. The institutions have expressed gratitude and appreciation "the young women who benefitted from this drive will have enough to last them the balance of the year".

Together, we didn't just collect sanitary towels - we collected hope, dignity and the promise of a better life.

PRETORIA

Welcome CWL Pretoria Archdiocese New Chaplain, Fr Bongani Patrick Dladla, OMI

On 12th February 2026, Fr Bongani Dladla, OMI was appointed by the Archbishop Dabula Mpako, to the Catholic Women's League, as the Chaplain for the sodality. Welcome Fr Dladla, we are grateful. We continue to be very grateful to Fr Thomas Vanderkunnel MSFS, who served as the CWL chaplain for several years.



ST CHARLES - LWANGA

New CWL Branch Launched

The 9th November 2025 was the launching of the CWL branch at St Charles Lwanga, Pretoria. This is the 17th CWL branch launched in the Archdiocese of Pretoria.



MARIA REGINA PARISH - LYTTTELTON

Pre-Lenten Retreat

Fr Phala conducted a Pre-Lenten retreat for the CWL ladies at Maria Regina Parish at Lyttelton on 31 January 2026. The theme for the retreat was "A synodal journey: walking together in the service of the Lord".





News from the Diocese



CWL Priest Appreciation Day

On 18 January 2026, CWL celebrated and appreciated their Archdiocesan parish priests. The priests present were treated to delicious lunch and could engage with the diocesan presidents and fellow priests.



Archdiocese Implementation of the synod

On 15th February 2026, the Archbishop of Pretoria, Archbishop Dabula Mpako, launched the 'Implementation phase of the Synod'. All sodalities presidents/chairperson represented were called to implement the Synod process. Our CWL presidents and members were present to fully adopt the synodal process.



CHURCH OF THE BEATITUDE PARISH - ZWAVELSPOORT

Christmas celebrations

CWL hosted a Christmas celebration on the 6th of December 2025 for the children of SOS Village. The event featured music and dancing for entertainment. During the visit, CWL also inspected the two stoves previously donated to SOS Children's Home. This effort was made possible through the CWL's fundraising initiative; Fun Run/Walk. Interestingly a former SOS beneficiary delivered a motivational talk to both the boys and the girls.



On the 15th of November 2025, the CWL Zwavelspoor donated toilet paper, toiletries, and disposable nappies to the physically challenged children of Sizanani. Again the proceeds from Fun Run/Walk sponsored these goods.



ST PIUS X - WATERKLOOF

Outreach project to the Sisters of Mercy at Winterveldt

As a branch we assist bi-monthly by providing food parcels/groceries, clothes etc. In the spirit of Christmas, food hampers for 25 families were doubled to include an extra month's supply for January, knowing that the new month of the new year takes a strain on most of us.





News from the Diocese



OUR LADY OF THE SACRED HEART PARISH - MIDRAND

On the 16th December 2025, Midrand hosted a Christmas party for the kids at Mom Doll's Orphanage home in Rabie Ridge. The ladies prepared a wholesome meal for about 60 children. Everyone had fun at this successful Christmas Party.



The Midrand Branch had a new year's retreat on the 10th January 2026 which was led by Sister Julie at the Franciscan Convent House at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish. The Theme was "Reawakening The Human & Spiritual Self."

The retreat started with reciting the rosary, a talk led by Sister Julie, reflections in the garden, adoration in the chapel and ended with a finger lunch shared with Sister Julie. All who were present felt renewed and grateful to have started the year by strengthening our spirituality and faith.



SAINT JOHN FISCHER PARISH - LYNNWOOD

On 8 November 2025, we gathered for our end-of-year meeting, a moment marked by mixed emotions as we also bid farewell to Aimee Cashely, who was returning to England. Aimee was a devoted active member of the CWL at our parish for the past two years. During this gathering, our newly elected branch president, Joelle Kalenga Kalonda presented her with a farewell gift. This meeting also marked an important milestone as we elected our new parish committee.



On the 24th of January 2026, we came together once again, for our first meeting of the year.

We were blessed by the presence of the Pretoria Diocese CWL President, Dorah Lemaho Modise. She shared her heartfelt vision for the CWL and outlined key activities and important dates for the year ahead. Her expressed commitment to working closely with the Lynnwood parish branch reassured us of continued unity and support.

The meeting concluded in a spirit of fellowship as we shared tea together and captured precious moments through photographs.



*Be the truth, regardless
of popularity.*



News from the Diocese



MARIA REGINA PARISH - LYTTTELTON



First Meeting of the year



Last fundraising initiative of the year

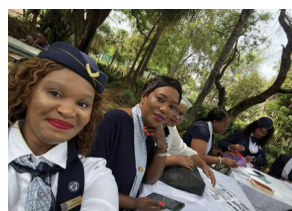


Lyttelton Parish hosted the Pre-Lenten retreat for the CWL Archdiocesan Ladies

CHURCH OF THE PRESENTATION PARISH - MONTANA

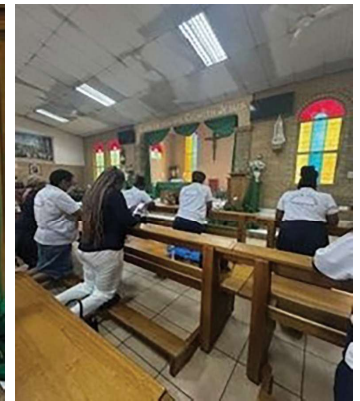
2026 Planning Session - 18 January 2026

On 18 January 2026, the Montana CWL branch held an annual planning session, resulting in a comprehensive 2026 Year Plan. Structured around the pillars of Loyalty, Charity, and Work, the plan commits to spiritual programs such as a Lenten series, the "1000 Hail Marys" prayer day, the annual Lenten Walk, Passover dinner and many more. The branch is confident this roadmap will guide a year of profound spiritual growth and impactful service through God's grace.



Beginning of Year Retreat - 24 January 2026

On 24 January 2026, the CWL Montana Branch had its annual Beginning of the Year Retreat at which Fr. Patrick Rakeketsi officiated. Through prayerful reflection and guided contemplation, members were revitalised and re-centred on their mission. This retreat reaffirmed the branch's commitment to a vibrant spiritual life, sending members forth re-energised and re-consecrated to enact their faith within the branch, parish, and community.



ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH - PTA NORTH

On Sunday 14th December 2025 the handover meeting at Pretoria North Branch, St. John the Baptist, went well. The former president Ms. Nomatabiso Tata pinned the newly elected president Ms. Ntombizodwa Lekabe. The former Treasurer Ms. Nancy Sono also pinned the newly elected Treasurer Ms. Seipati Rasetsoke.



The newly elected Pretoria North Branch committee 2026-2028: Ms. Hunadi Mokone (Dep. Treasurer), Ms. Lahliwe Lipa (Secretary), Ms. Ntombizodwa Lekabe (President), Ms. Seipati Rasetsoke (Treasurer), Ms. Mary Mothupi (News correspondent), Ms. Nomatabiso Tata (Dep. President)



News from the Diocese



The first ordinary meeting held on Sunday 8th February was well attended



CWL St Camillus Parish collected and donated clothing from Charis Harvest church from Marokolong, Hammanskraal. The clothes and food parcels were donated to TLC Old Age Home and Tshwaranang Children Home at Unit 7, Temba.



CWL Pretoria North branch of St. John the Baptist held their Pre-Lenten Retreat that at Centurion Catholic Church, on Saturday 31st January 2026. The ladies were joined by fellow sisters from the Archdiocese of Pretoria



ST CAMILLUS PARISH - HAMMANSKRAAL

On 19th January 2026, CWL members attended Mass at Holy Cross Parish, Temba, with the deaf community. Ms Suzan Ngobeni, CWL member assisted with interpretation during Mass.





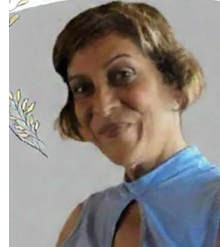
Obituaries

"Rest in peace faithful servant of God"



Ms Nodu Nolakwe - Cape Town

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Nodu Nolakwe on the 14th February 2026. She was a dedicated member of the Langa Catholic Women's League since its inception in 2003 up to her last days. Her kindness, humility and commitment to the League and to the Catholic faith will be missed by all. May she rest in peace.



Desiree Aliphon - Durban

16/12/1960 - 20/11/2025

Desiree was a woman of deep faith and charity who will be remembered for her dedication as a member of CWL.



Bernié Marques - Cape Town

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of Bernié Marques, a beloved member of the Table View Morning Group and Past Diocesan President of the Catholic Women's League, Archdiocese of Cape Town, serving from July 2018 to July 2022. We give thanks for her life of faithful service and entrust her soul to the loving mercy of God. May she rest in eternal peace, and may the light of Christ shine upon her always.



Sylvia Hilda Bosch - East London

01/07/1934 - 27/12/2025



Sibongile Ngubeni - Durban

06 January 2026

Sibongile was a full member with 25 years faithful and dedicated service.



Gertie Arends - East London

11 July 1941 - 26 November 2024



Bertha Ndaba - Durban

21/09/1936 - 30/01/2026

Umndeni Ongcwele Parish (Hammarisdale)

Bertha was an honorary life member. She served the CWL for 63 years.



Misiwe Lamati - East London

13 May 1970 - 04 January 2026



Sizakele Mngadi - Durban

25/12/1953 - 21/01/2026

Emmanuel Cathedral - Durban

Sizakele was an honorary life member. She served the CWL for 36 years.



Ntombazana Botha - East London

21 July 1943 - 08 November 2025



Obituaries

"Rest in peace faithful servant of God"



Cecília Botha - Gqeberha

Mrs. Cecelia Botha was a founder member of the St James CWL. She later became the founder member of the St Kevin's CWL where she served diligently for many years. Mrs. Botha served in The Catholic Women's League for 60 years, with pride, before she was called to higher service... her legacy of Charity Work and Loyalty will reign forever...
MHDSRIP



Mamosebetsi Mirriam Makhanya - Our Lady of Grace (Umlazi)

Mirriam, an Auxiliary member of the branch, was called to rest on 15 December 2025 after having been a CWL member from May 2012. May her soul rest in peace and may the perpetual light shine upon her.

JOHANNESBURG OBITUARIES

Barbara Khuluse - St Pius, Mofolo
Nontsikelelo Hadebe - St Margaret, Diepkloof
Molly Mokone - St Pius, Mofolo
Margaret Rhodolo - St Martin de Porres, Orlando
Dolores Kathleen O'Connor - St Charles, Victory Park
Min Lawrenson - St Theresa, Edenvale
Edna Malabye - Bryanston
Christina Hill



Kedidimetse Emelda Mongwegi - Kimberley

A dedicated member of the League from Modimong Parish, in the Taung Deanery from 1986 until her death on 22 January 2026. May her dear soul rest in eternal peace.



Delene Holt - Pretoria

29/10/1950 - 07/02/2026

On the 7th of February 2026 we mourned the passing of our former president, Delene Holt. She was the president of CWL Lynwood parish for 16 years. She led with humility, strength, and unwavering dedication, inspiring all who had the privilege of working beside her. Go well, Delene. Your faith, love, and unwavering commitment to CWL Lynwood will never be forgotten. You will forever remain in our hearts. Rest peacefully, our beloved sister.



Keashelang Virginia Molehenyane - Kimberley

A member of the League from St Mary's Parish in the Taung Deanery who had served the League from 1986. She passed away on 30 November 2026. May her dear soul rest in eternal peace.

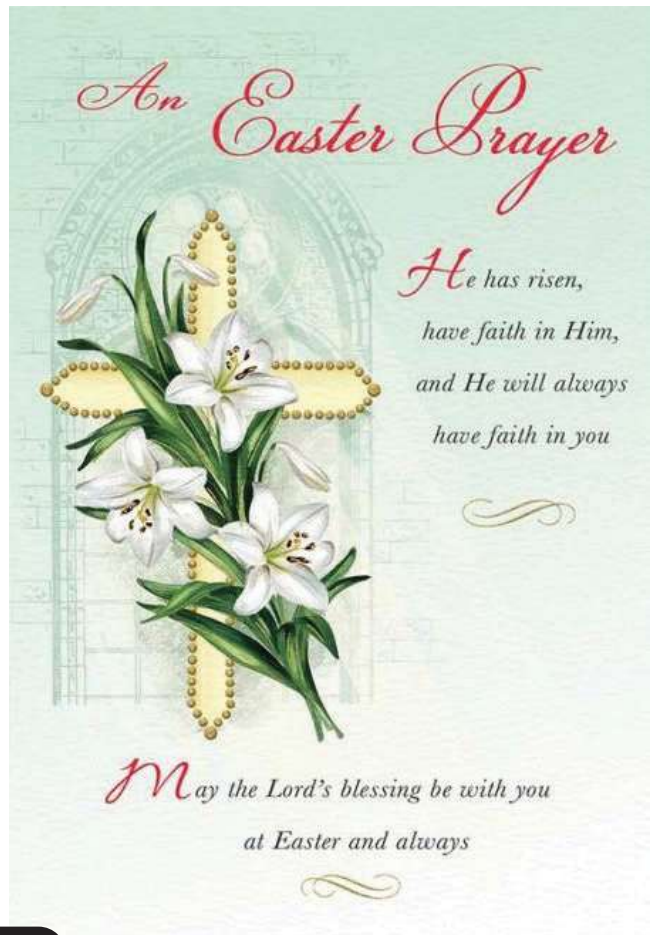


Mmathapelo Lydia Sebothe - Klerksdorp

Our Lady of Lourdes (Wolmaransstad)

Called to rest on 24 January 2026

Mme Mma Sebothe, was a staunch member of the Catholic Women's League in Klerksdorp Diocese from September 2007. May her soul rest in peace.



2026 Planning Session - 18 January 2026



National Management Committee - Catholic Women'...

We arrived at St Patrick's Cathedral where we received a warm welcome from Father Napo and the Diocesan President and her vibrant committee.

Father Napo offered Mass and afterwards the CWL ladies of Kokstad lead us in the Stations of the Cross. Our supper was served at the Holy Rosary Convent, where we met our beloved Dominican Sisters. We there enjoyed a real scrumptious meal of paella.

On Saturday morning, Fr. Napo did the opening, lead by the Diocesan President's presentation. Our National President then presented her speech.

Father Jerry touched us with the words of the woman at the well, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done."

At 12h00, Bishop Thulani Mbuwisa CMM ended the session with Mass in the Cathedral. Once again, a lovely lunch was served in St Patrick's Hall. On Sunday morning, we attended Mass at St Joseph's, Florida Road in Durban.

After Mass we met with some of the beautiful, vibrant ladies of the Diocese of Durban and Marian Hill. We had coffee and a chat together and we were really humbled by their generosity. 'Well, done ladies.'

Belinda Allie.



NETWORKING?

Promoting
the planting
of trees?

WOOL FOR KNITTING/ CROCHETING?

Ask parishioners?
Friends?
Family?

Supporting Caritas project





We look forward to welcoming
you to the friendly city.

**CWL NATIONAL CONFERENCE
AUGUST 2027**

Port Elizabeth/Gqeberha