



A LECTURE ON DR SR MARY GLOWREY

On Saturday, November 7, a large gathering celebrated ninety-seven years of dedicated service by the CWL Ballarat Cathedral Branch with a beautiful Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral, followed by an inspiring lecture by Robyn Fahy about the life of Dr Sr Mary Glowrey and the unveiling and blessing of a portrait of Mary (a photograph taken in Ballarat in 1918). It was a wonderful day in no small measure thanks to the efforts of Fr Justin Driscoll VG, Gertie Mangan, Sheila Wilton, Margaret Rowe, Jewell Start and the other members of the League in the Ballarat Diocese. We were also delighted that Bishop Mark Connors and many of Mary Glowrey's relatives attended this celebration and join members of the League in 'walking in Mary's footsteps' in the Cathedral precinct.



Pictured from L to R: Fr Justin Driscoll VG, Sr Mary Glowrey LCM, Margaret Row, Gertie Mangan and Sheila Wilton.

The beginnings of the Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga (then known as the Catholic Women's Guild) in the Diocese of Ballarat were particularly auspicious. The meeting to formally inaugurate the Guild was held in St Patrick's Hall on Sunday, November 18, 1917 and was attended by more than three hundred women. His Lordship Dr Foley presided. Present also were the Administrator, Fr Kerin, and Frs Roper, Reidy and Hennebry. Mary delivered a stirring address and noted that in the Guild there is work for every woman, and even the busiest can play some part, however small. She also emphasised the importance of studying the social questions of the day. By the following Saturday, there were already four hundred financial members of the Guild in the Diocese of Ballarat. Branches had been opened in Watchem, Birchip, Donald and Kayrie. Its sphere of action rapidly increased, including the establishment of what was regarded as the largest and best organised Guild library in Australia.

Mary's older sister, Lucy Connellan and one of her younger brothers, Eddie, were also very involved in the work of the Guild in the Ballarat Diocese. After his ordination, Fr Eddie Glowrey was stationed for a time at St Patrick's Cathedral and was appointed as the chaplain to the Ballarat East branch of the Guild in 1921. In the 1930s, Fr Glowrey was the chaplain of the Redan branch. In the early 1940s, he was appointed administrator of St. Patrick's Cathedral. He was made Dean and Vicar Forane of St. Arnaud in 1947.

Robyn Fahy - Catholic Women's League of Victoria & Wagga Wagga