

A DAY IN STAWELL

On Tuesday, March 8, members and guests gathered in Stawell to participate in the Northern Regional Conference/Reflection Day of the Ballarat Diocese Catholic Women's League to celebrate the 99th year of Catholic women who have been very committed in their service to the Catholic values. The focus for the day was on the League's theme for their Centenary year "we look to the future with confidence".

This year, on October 2, the Catholic Women's League of Victoria and Wagga Wagga Inc. will be celebrating the Centenary of their first meeting on October 2, 1916 in Cathedral Hall, Fitzroy, Melbourne after a Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne.



After all official business was concluded we settled to listen to Fr Justin Driscoll, Vicar-General. Fr Justin led the reflection speaking of the *Jubilee Year of Mercy*. He reflected on some of the words written and spoken about mercy by Pope Francis, relating it back to the Gospels. Audio visuals added to the impact of Fr Justin's words. The hymns spoke of mercy and forgiveness and were inspiring.



March 8 was also the feast of St John of God. At Mass in his homily, Fr Justin reminded us how St John of God was the Saint who showed mercy and cared for the poor and outcast and how his legacy was continued through the good work of the St John of God Sisters in the Diocese.

It was also International Women's Day, Fr Justin spoke about two very strong women, St Mary of the Cross McKillop and Sr Mary Glowrey Servant of God and the impact they have had on our community and church. It is very valuable to have 'local' saints, it brings the saintly life closer and more real to us. Fr Justin also mentioned that Mary Glowrey's brother had been a priest in the Diocese and at one time, Chaplain of the CWL Ballarat Diocese. He was Parish Priest of St Arnaud and is buried there. Early photos of the Glowrey family were shown on the visuals.

It was a happy and uplifting day. Many thanks to Father Justin and the Stawell branch of the CWL. Thanks also to St Patrick's School for the use of the hall.

