

Catholic Women's League of Southern Africa

The Catholic Women's League in Southern Africa is made up of the National Council, which comprises all the Diocesan Presidents and the Management Committee, as well as all the Past National Presidents.

The Diocesan and Regional Presidents are responsible for the running of the branches in each diocese and region and report to the National Management Committee.

Every three years at a conference, the National Management Committee (NMC) is taken over by a different diocese.

Over the weekend of the 28/29th August 2021, the Johannesburg National Management Committee handed over the administration to Cape Town at the 29th National Conference.

This conference was due to be held in August 2020, with 800 members registering for it. However, due to the sudden onslaught of the pandemic, this was reduced to 500 in May 2021 and later to 50 and sadly, to 15 members over the weekend of the 28th. We met at the Carmelite Retreat Centre in Benoni and despite so few of us being there, it was a very meaningful time spent together.

The outgoing NMC with the incoming NMC held business meetings throughout the weekend and at Mass on Saturday evening, celebrated by Fr Anthony Spencer, the outgoing Spiritual Chaplain, the handover took place.

Our new committee is as follows:

President:	Anne Deary	(Rondebosch branch)
1 st Vice:	Anna-Marie Landsman	(Wynberg branch)
2 nd Vice:	Pat McEwen	(Rondebosch branch)
Secretary:	Karena Colley	(Bothasig branch)
Treasurer:	Susan van der Valk	(Tableview Evening branch)
News Corresp:	Michaela Peart	(Plumstead branch)
Spiritual Director:	Fr Kevin Dadswell	(Parish Priest, Mowbray)



Front L-R: Anna-Marie Landsman, Anne Deary, Pat McEwen
Back L-R: Susan van der Valk, Fr Dadswell, Karena Colley, Michaela Peart

Our theme for the next three years is taken from Ephesians 4 vs 3:
“Unity in the Spirit, through the bonds of peace”



Through the bonds of Peace

At dinner on Saturday evening, we celebrated 90 years of the League in South Africa, which was started in Cape Town in 1931. The first National Management Committee was formed in 1952 with the National President being from Cape Town and the rest of the committee from other areas.

Anne Deary cutting the 90th birthday cake.



Also that evening, those ladies receiving Honorary Life Membership certificates were named and two ladies from Cape Town received their certificates and badges (in absentia). We are delighted to announce that Norma Edwards of the Rondebosch branch was nominated in recognition of her dedication and service to the League, above and beyond the call of duty. We congratulate her and thank her most sincerely for all she does in the name of the CWL.

On Sunday morning we celebrated a Mass in Memoriam, celebrated by Fr Dadswell in memory of those CWL women who have died since the previous conference held in Pretoria in 2017 – a staggering 298! A candle was lit as each diocese was mentioned and a moment of silence held in remembrance!

