

**CWO 1993 – 2013 Twenty years of prayer and action**  
**Challenging Institutional Sexism in the Roman Catholic Church**  
**E-news May 2013 issue 59**

Welcome to issue 59 of the e-news. Editor Pat Brown. Please visit CWO's website [www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](http://www.catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk) News and previous issues can be seen there.

Please send items for June e-news by 16 June. Also contact me for further information about anything in this e-news where contact details are not given [info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk](mailto:info@catholic-womens-ordination.org.uk)

The e-news is not very long this month; it's as long as it needs to be! Please write up anything you've been up to and any thoughts you have and send them to me to share with other members.

This prayer was sent in by Elisabeth Bourn

*We give thanks for the courageous witness of the Daughters of Mary, those women of the Holy Land who live their vocation, hidden within their community of prayer, prophecy and the hope that calls with certainty: Maranatha – Come Lord Jesus - and with faith anticipates the full incarnation of the kingdom of God; of justice, peace and reconciliation.*

**CWO Annual Gathering Saturday 5 October 2013**

This will reflect our twenty years of prayer and action

10.30am – 4.00pm

at the Welsh Congregationalist Church, Loveday Street, Birmingham B4 6NP

The AGM will be in the morning. This is to be followed by lunch.

In the afternoon, local members and supporters in the Midlands are planning for an afternoon of celebration and reflection on where we are as women in the church, after twenty years of CWO in the UK and many decades of social and theological development by women and men across the world from early in the twentieth century up to the present. We will also be asking what the next steps might be towards the future which God calls us to.

We have already been talking to possible key participants, and hope to have details of speakers, programme and a flier over the next month or so.

So watch this space and please put the date in your diary

They wouldn't forbid them to do it if they weren't doing it

Diarmaid MacCulloch

### **CWO Saints**

Mary MacKillop  
Ruth Norton  
John Hatfield  
Celia Greenwood  
Michael O'Gara  
Sheila Houlihan  
Mary Daly  
Estelle White  
Pat McGarron  
Marcella Althaus-Reid  
Astrid Klemz  
Jean Palmer  
Elizabeth Rendall  
Maureen Brown  
Tissa Balasuriya  
Jack Sutcliffe

*Pray for us*

### **Links**

National Catholic Reporter – The Paradox of Pope Francis

<http://ncronline.org/news/vatican/paradox-pope-francis>

Vatican religious prefect "I was left out of LCWR finding"

<http://ncronline.org/news/sisters-stories/vatican-religious-prefect-i-was-left-out-lcwr-finding>

Woman Catholic Deacons "no longer taboo"

<http://www.thelocal.de/society/20130429-49427.html#.UX9k8sr0vCq>

### **The Earth is the Lord's: Renewing the Covenant of Creation**

A conference run by Modern Church 15 - 18 July.

<http://www.modernchurch.org.uk/conference/2013.htm>



After being a committed and active CWO member in its early days, I'm afraid I've been dormant for some years. My re-awakening now is partly prompted by the delightful experience of meeting Myra and Pat again at a Call to Action gathering in Leeds. I admire their dedicated commitment to women's ordination, and love the sense of honesty and humour with which they spread the word.

Some weeks earlier, I'd been surprised to be asked to speak on Radio Derby about my reaction to the unexpected resignation of Pope Benedict, which struck me as the most radical event in the life of the Catholic Church since Vatican II! I found myself describing the tears I'd shed when he'd been elected Pope, as I saw little hope of the promises of the Council being fulfilled either in my lifetime or that of my five daughters. As with many people, my experience of his pontificate and that of John Paul II was that the windows opened by John XXIII were being closed and shuttered again. The election of Pope Francis has renewed my hopes for refreshing change in which the Holy Spirit may again be free to blow through the Church with vigour and wisdom. The danger might be that we place all our hopes in the influence of one man. My sense is that all the members of the Church need to work together to create collegial dialogue, and that women have a special voice in this.

As if to bring this thought to life, I've been working collaboratively with a gifted artist friend, Michael Cook, over several years exploring interaction with women and men in the Gospels, and their share in God's work of creation. His images are strong, beautiful and humane, and my words seem to offer a way of entering the Gospel stories. Our latest work centres on a stunning picture of the women proclaiming the news of Christ's resurrection to the Apostles, only to be told that they're talking nonsense; the title of the painting is 'An Idle Tale'! The piece I've written has turned out to be a sort of Easter carol, in which the women gradually win the men round to the realisation that Jesus is indeed risen, as he said he would. Both image and words have already been shown in Chester, and are about to be shown as part of Belper Festival. It's been suggested that a place might even be found for them at a CWO meeting!

Whether that happens or not, some of you might like to take a look at Michael's website, which is [www.hallowed-art.co.uk](http://www.hallowed-art.co.uk) . For now, I'm enjoying the resurrection of hope and renewed friendship in CWO.

Ros O'Melia

## Websites

<http://www.acalltoaction.org.uk/>

Catholics inspired by Vatican II.

<http://www.gras.org.uk>

Group for rescinding the Act of Synod

[www.we-are-church.org.uk](http://www.we-are-church.org.uk)

<http://womenandthechurch.org/>

Campaign for women's equality in Church of England

[www.womensordination.org](http://www.womensordination.org)

News of Fr Bourgeois and many other issues

[www.churchauthority.org](http://www.churchauthority.org)

Sign the Jubilee Declaration

[www.ccc4vat2.org.uk](http://www.ccc4vat2.org.uk)

Catholics for a Changing Church

<http://lgcm.org.uk/>

Lesbian and Gay Christians

[www.womenwordspirit.org](http://www.womenwordspirit.org)

[www.womenpriests.org](http://www.womenpriests.org)

Sign up for their regular newsletter

<http://ncronline3.org/drupal/>

National Catholic Reporter

<http://christianfeministnetwork.com/>

Christian Feminist Network - exploring faith and feminism

[www.spirituschristi.org](http://www.spirituschristi.org)

A truly inclusive Catholic Church

<http://www.stcuthbertshouse.co.uk/expliturgy/>

Rachel is a professed hermit of the R C Diocese of Nottingham.

## Prayer Link

Wednesday between 6.00 and 7.00pm, please pray for CWO, its members and its mission.

Saturdays at noon, join with women and men all over the world to pray for the work of Women's Ordination Worldwide (WOW!)

Please take part in one or both of these prayer networks if and when you can

## The CWO Prayer

Moved by a compulsion of the Holy Spirit, we cannot remain ignorant of this injustice in our midst.

We long for all humanity to be acknowledged as equal, particularly among your community of the church, so we pray grieving for the lost gifts of so many women.

We ask you, God of all peoples, to bring insight and humility to all those in positions of dominance, and an understanding that the ascended Lord called us all to act doing Christ's work here and now.

We ask this of you, God our Creator, Jesus our Redeemer, Spirit our Sustainer

## CWO Merchandise

These items are great way to advertise CWO without costing you very much. I often see people in my rear view mirror admiring the wit of my car sticker! You can leave the pens lying around in places where it might be difficult to leave a CWO leaflet. The badges attract a lot of attention with the slogan based on the letters of ROME. We now have mugs which as well as being practical are a good way of advertising CWO. You might like to send one to your bishop!

how many      unit cost      total

Biro - CWO logo, website and phone no	Purple with silver lettering Black ink		0.80	
Car sticker CWO logo website and phone number	Purple on dream		1.50	
CWO rectangular badge	Purple with white lettering <b>Renewed Ordained Ministry for Everyone</b>		1.00	
<b>NEW!!!</b> Mug CWO logo website "CWO's my cup of tea"	Purple on white Buy for your office, church tea room, meeting room		4.50 each 3 for £12 10 for £35	
P & P *see below				
Donation (optional)				

### PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name

Delivery address

Post code

Contact email or telephone number

Send to Pat Brown, 4 West Park Gardens, Leeds, LS8 2HD

\*Postage and packing (increased from last time as postal charges have gone up)

orders up to £10	4.00
orders £10 - 20	6.00
orders over £20	Free