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Please think about giving a contribution of an article, all articles will be welcomed.

Please forward articles to the editor: Martina Bowen at leo.bowen.61@gmail.com

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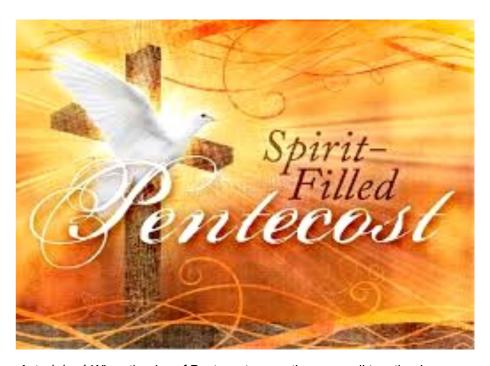
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Acts 1:1—4 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

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@ St Paul's Beresfield

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Nov 7th Dec 5th

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Diocesan Spiritual Director Incoming National Spiritual Advisor

The Sweet Perfume of Jesus By Fr Steve Niland

I sit to write this about 5½ days before our National Secretariat Meeting in Busselton, Western Australia, and I have been invited to take the opening Eucharist. The theme for this meeting – as chosen by National Lay Director Roger O'Hara comes from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians, chapter 2: 14-15 ¹⁴ But thank God! He has made us his captives and continues to lead us along in Christ's trium-



phal procession. Now he uses us to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume. ¹⁵ Our lives are a Christ-like fragrance rising up to God. But this fragrance is perceived differently by those who are being saved and by those who are perishing.

There are many smells and aromas that surround our daily lives – that distinctive smell of the local garbage truck or the road kill left behind on the main road ... but what about the smell of freshly baked bread, or the sight, sound and smell of bacon cooking for breakfast, or enjoying the achievement and smell of a freshly cut lawn. I'm sure we all have our favourites.

So, how can our lives spread the sweet perfume of Jesus? How can everyone with whom we come in contact see Jesus in us? Some background: In a Roman triumphal procession, the victorious general would display his treasures and captives amidst a cloud of incense burned for the pagan gods. To the victors, the aroma is sweet; to the captives, the prisoners in the parade, it was the smell of slavery and death. When Christians share the Gospel, it is good news to some and repulsive news to others. Believers recognise the life-giving fragrance of the message. To non-believers, however, it smells foul, like death – and in this case, their own.

So, how can we change the way we live each day in order to spread the sweet perfume of Jesus? I'd like to suggest 3 things we can do – we can change our words, change our deeds, what we do – and change our attitudes.

<u>Our Words</u> – Ephesians 4:29 and 5:4 are relevant here. We can upset, disappoint or grieve the Holy Spirit by the way we live. Here, Paul warns us against bad language, fighting, saying false things against people and having a bad attitude toward others. Instead of all this, we need to be more patient, forgiving and showing love towards the people we meet – just as God did when He sent Jesus to die for our sins. Obscenity and coarse joking are so common that we begin to take them for granted. Paul cautions, however, that improper language should have no place in the Christian's conversation because it does not reflect God's gracious presence in us. How can we praise God and remind others of His goodness when we are speaking coarsely?

Our Deeds – Matthew 5:16 and Galatians 5: 19-21 are our scriptural basis here. The well-worn description which asks the question: 'Can you hide a city that is sitting on top of a hill?' Its light at night can be seen for many kilometres. If we live for Jesus, we will glow like lights – emit Christ-like perfume – showing others what Christ is like. Continued over the page . .

.... We hide our light or keep Christ's aroma to ourselves by:.

- 1. Being quiet when we should speak;
- 2. Going along with the crowd;
- 3. Denying the light;
- 4. Letting sin dim our light;
- 5. Not explaining our light to others; OR
- 6. Ignoring the needs of others.

We need to be a light that shines, and to spread the knowledge of Christ everywhere, like a sweet perfume.

We all have evil desires, and so we can't ignore them. In order for us to follow the Holy Spirit's guidance, we must deal with them decisively – or as Ephesians 5:24 tells us, crucify them. Such desires include the obvious sins such as sexual immorality and witchcraft – but also the less obvious ones like selfish ambition, hatred and jealousy. Those who ignore such sins or refuse to deal with them show that they have not received the gift of the Spirit that leads to a reformed life. And lastly,

Our Attitudes – Philippians 2: 5-8 and Romans 8: 5-8 are our go-to scriptures here. Jesus Christ is humble - willing to give up His rights and serve people. Like Christ, we should have a servant's attitude, serving out of love for God and others - not out of guilt or fear. We should always remember that we can choose our attitude. We can approach life expecting to be served – OR – we can look for opportunities to serve others. When Jesus walked this earth as a human being, he voluntarily assumed a human body and human nature. He did not cease to be God BUT He did set aside the right to His glory and power. Jesus of Nazareth was subject to place, time and many other human limitations. But by being without sin, He was unique. He showed us that everything about God's character can be conveyed in human terms. In Romans, Paul divides his audience into 2 categories – those who are dominated by their sinful nature, and those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit. All of us would be in the first category if Jesus hadn't offered us a way out. Once we say YES to Jesus, we will want to follow Him, because His way brings life and peace. Daily, we need to consciously choose to centre our lives on God. By immersing ourselves in the Bible, we can discover God's guidelines, and then follow them. In every perplexing situation, ask "What would Jesus have me do?" - and when the Holy Spirit points out what is right, do it eagerly.

May we ask God to help us be aware of the place of Jesus in our lives: "May the Holy Spirit guide the words we say, the way we conduct ourselves and the attitudes we choose to have. We give thanks for the Cursillo Movement in this Diocese and throughout the world. May it prosper and bring glory to your Holy Name by spreading your sweet perfume to all.

This we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord.
! Amen."



! NEWCASTLE DEANERY.

The Cathedral. 20 January.

The first ultreya for 2017 was held at the Cathedral on the 20 January.

The evening was a great one, as all ultreyas are. We started with singing followed by a lovely meal and fellowship, and over 25 people were present. We also had the pleasant opportunity to offer hospitality to several European tourists who shared the evening meal with us.

Our Ultreya was led by an "all girls" Team; being our Lay Leader, Spiritual Adviser, Musician and our Witness Speaker. It was appreciated our Dean, Fr Stephen attended the Ultreya and shared in the fellowship.

The Witness Speaker was Rev Sonia Roulston, who gave us a very informative talk on her own journey of faith and a little insight into her position as Archdeacon of Newcastle.

Our Co-Lay Director, Lyn Carter was also present. Lyn spoke for a few minutes and kept us up to date with happenings from Secretariat. She also stated that both Co-Lay Directors are trying to attend as many ultreyas being held in Diocese as they possibly can.

Our evening concluded with a special compline service led by our S.A., the Rev. Jan Deaves.

! From Cathy & Kevin Claydon

MICA Ultreya 11th March

Even though we only have a few Cursillistas at MICA it is always a privilege to host our Ultreya each year. A time of encouragement as we journey together in our faith. A time to share our experiences, those that have rocked us and those that have lifted us up.

The witness talk at our Ultreya this year was highly influenced by the hearings of the Royal Commission. Carol had friends who had been affected in the past by abuse and she talked about the ongoing legacy that has had for them. She also reflected on how difficult it now was to know who you can trust in the church. Carol did acknowledge that there are many wonderful Priests and people in our churches everywhere and that does give her hope.



LAKE MACQUARIE DEANERY

South Lakes. 18th February

The 2nd Ultreya for 2017 L.Mc Deanery, was hosted by Southlakes, with our Rector, Rev Glen Pope, who graciously led the Ultreya, and gave wise counsel and spiritual insights following the witness speaker's talk.

The Witness talk was given by Jane Nicolle W44, Jane spoke on how her recent Cursillo experiences had revived her relationship with God, from a faith she had almost given up on, to a faith with a relationship giving a life of renewed possibilities. Jane spoke of the impact her father's serious accident last year had on her prayer life, her Christian life, her family and those surrounding her. She talked of the power of prayer, and the true peace, blessings & encouragement that prayer has had on her entire families lives.

So it was another great time of joyful worship in song, word & encouragement experienced by all vets, many travelling from the eastern side of the lake. A sumptuous meal, provided by all who came, was shared by all after the grace, and great conversation followed during the meal time.

From the Nicolle team.

Cockle Bay 24th March.

Was held in the hall at St David's, York St Teralba, it really was a great evening of fellowship, food and song. With a set time for 6pm for 6.30pm, our vets started arriving promptly (more or less) and enjoyed catching up with friends from past Cursillos and then BAM! The MC (or do we call them LD's at Ultreya?) opened the evening with a simple statement over the microphone "May the Lord be with you!" Every conversation stopped and all replied "And also with you". That's how we blasted off into a few well known songs of praise. (Well it was a failed launch – I.T. issues!!!! But the second attempt got us there...even NASA gets it wrong sometimes.)

A bible reading (Psalm 23), a song chosen by the witness speaker, Terri, followed by a very powerful, heart wrenching and encouraging witness talk

Our spiritual advisor Rev'd Jenny Foley spoke about relationships especially the one that our saviour, Jesus Christ, longs to have with each of us.

A wonderful, uplifting evening closed with singing followed by a grand-circle where we all held hands, looked each other in the eye and proclaimed:

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us now and for evermore. Amen

From team Parsons!

Diocesan Co-Lay Director IS CURSILLO DEAD? By Brian Walsh

HI, you know, we are so lucky in this Diocese.!
Our Cursillo program is still powering on after some 27years since it was introduced to us from the Grafton Diocese in 1990.

Speaking to people at the National Conference can be quite enlightening, some programs in the country are really struggling, some have even gone into recess with no real prospect of becoming active again and this is very sad. It is so hard to restart something like Cursillo when it has lost its momentum and is made to quit for a while. This is the danger when a decision is made to close up for a couple of years because of a lack of need.

Some people have said to me "it is time to have a break", "its run its course", "we have great difficulty getting men to come along to a Cursillo weekend, put it to bed for a while until there is a real need for it to come back again".

My answer is this! how can we forgo our obligation to spread the Gospel and give an opportunity of faith enrichment, when there are so many people sitting in our pews who have never ever been really challenged to think seriously about their faith? Let alone the thousands in our Diocese who have never ever been given an opportunity to hear and appreciate the Gospel message. Why am I telling you this?

Well, I, like you have been really confronted with world events over the past few months. I can't help but feel that our time for opportunity and action is coming to an end. There is a real urgency in our mission now. The world is in a dreadful state, we have more refugees throughout the world now than we have ever had before, countries are even squabbling over whether refugees are "their" problem, should they get involved? If so, to what degree?

For the first time in my lifetime we have a real threat of nuclear annihilation that could start almost in our own backyard. Christians are being horrifically persecuted in some parts of the world simply because of their faith. The world needs our Lord Jesus Christ more now than at any time in its history.

We need to prayerfully act to spread his message NOW, even in our own lucky country.

History has shown that complacency leads to defeat and it is this devastating cost of defeat that should make us ever vigilant to pursue Gods work with a persistent enthusiasm. Read Ephesians Ch 6, it gives us the inspiration to put everything into our efforts knowing that God's power and strength is behind us.

Even in our own Diocese, we have seen how the Satanic influence of a few, has undermined the wonderful work that has been done by so many God inspired men and women over past years, with a disastrous consequence. Yes, even in our own close quarters here in Newcastle there is much work to be done and praise God, Cursillo is here, ready, healthy and willing.

Cursillo surely can be, and should be, in the front line of that fight for a dramatic and successful recovery. We can all help in our own way, with God's help.

How can we say that Cursillo is dead, indeed?



FOR YOUR DAILY PRAYERS 2017 CURSILLO TEAMS

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Narelle Sherring	Proctor	Nick Waymouth
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Helen Shearer	Gopher	Lance Phillips
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Sheila Turnbull	Christian Community	Warren Handley
Narelle Sherring	JOG	Nick Waymouth
Ruth Macfarlane	Group Reunion	Tony Farmer
Leslie Byrne	Ultreya	Tony Farmer

Roll update.

Your servant community coordinators are seeking your help in updating the Deanery Cursillo roll. Can you please advise your Deanery Coordinator of any changes to your contact details, e.g. new email address, etc.

Gail Iles & Bill Nicolle, Your Servant Community Coordinators.

ULTREYAS ROUND THE DEANERIES:

A great suggestion has been forwarded to Secretariat, that we include brief Deanery Ultreya reports in the Encourager. Many thanks to those who have "got the ball rolling" and contributed to this edition, (at very short notice).

Please keep all the church informed and encouraged with your continuing Deanery Ultreya reports.

CENTRAL COAST DEANERY.

Umina 4th March

Servant Community met at St Andrews Umina at midday, Cursillistas arrived for lunch together at 1pm, and Leader Rosemary Gillham called the Ultreya in to church at 2pm. Jack Lloyd spoke of his 40 year journey from unbelief to belief and we celebrated his 74th birthday. Rev Michael Davies encouraged Jack and all present with Spiritual Direction.

Six groups of 5-6 people met and shared in floating Group Reunions, and the Ultreya was hosted and colourfully projected on double screens by Parish Contacts Derek and Elizabeth Corless.

! Toukley 6th May

Wendy Tillott led a well-attended Ultreya and the Parish Priest was a model Spiritual Director for the Witness Speaker, Lorraine Griffiths. Group Reunions were encouraged by hearing her example of perseverance through faith in the Lord's leading. Eric from The Entrance congregation played for great singing and Ultreya was followed by beautiful fellowship over lunch.at the back of the church

- ♦ To study environments for evangelising and mission.
- ◆ To bring people from the Pre Cursillo stage to the Fourth Day by sponsoring people from the environments they have been studying.
- To enable Cursillistas to become fully aware of all aspects of the Cursillo movement and method.
- To foster the spiritual development of Cursillistas through the application of the method

Servant Communities / Leaders' Schools are not formed to be task oriented – they are formed to study the movement, to assist in maintaining authenticity, to discern new leaders, to assist Cursillistas into Group Reunions – to be the eyes and ears for Secretariat, to be a community of service to the Cursillo community.

It is clear that Servant Communities/ Leaders' Schools exist to complete some tasks but they are not to be task centred.

The Servant Community/Leaders' School will, in its finest form, grow a team of leaders who:

- ⇒ Pray for the movement, themselves and each other.
- ⇒ Live and understand the method so that they can lead others.
- ⇒ Are developing their own spirituality so that their holiness attracts others.
- Are learning about the purpose and method of Cursillo in order to communicate it to others.
- ⇒ Are studying the talks of the Three Day Programme and are living them in their own lives.
- Are aware of the health of the movement in all its phases i.e. the Pre Cusillo, the Three Day Programme and the Fourth Day,
- ⇒ Are studying their environments and are praying for discernment to identify those who can and/or will change the environment for Jesus Christ.
 - ⇒ Are maintaining authentic forms of Group Reunion and Ultreyas in order to assist the Cursillistas in their Fourth Day.

Who can join a Deanery LS/SC?

Any Cursillistas! May we encourage all vets, both new and old, to get involved in your Deanery LS/C to continue to "Change our Environments" for Christ.

2017 DIOCESAN ULTREYA

Beyond our control this year's

Diocesan Ultreya

will be on the

Saturday 18th November

at

Christ Church Cathedral

9am for 9.30am

Praise God for our wonderful

Cursillo Movement

and all that it represents.

"Make a friend, be a friend and lead that friend gently to Jesus"

Please remember to mark the 18th November

in your Diary!

Hope to see you there.

Mothering Sunday

This issue of The Encourager comes after we have celebrated Mother's Day. Mother's Day for us can be either a happy or sad occasion for so many reasons. My mum died last year on Mother's Day (Betty Norton W34) and I remember all too well the horrendous Mother's Days as I waited and underwent fertility treatment. So, Mother's Day hasn't always been great and my heart goes out to anyone else in a similar situation especially to those who have had a child die.

Within our Australian Anglican tradition, we generally celebrate Mother's Day but some parishes also celebrate Mothering Sunday. For me growing up in very traditional parishes across the state I always celebrated Mothering Sunday and Mother's Day. I used to love taking home to mum a piece of cake that was called some strange name, that is Simnel cake. It was up there with the excitement of sleeping on wedding cake dreaming of the man I would marry! Naturally these two forms of celebrating mothers has caused quite some confusion. I remember being in England and sending flowers to mum for Mother's Day in May and convincing the florist took some time and effort!

Mothering Sunday is a Christian festival celebrated throughout Europe on the fourth Sunday of Lent. Although in England it's often called 'Mothers' Day' it is not the same as the American and Australian celebration of Mothers' Day. In the Roman religion the Hilaria festival was held in mid-March in honour of the mother goddess Cybele. As Europe converted to Christianity, this celebration became part of the church calendar as Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent, to honour the Virgin Mary and the "mother church". (*Laetare* means 'be joyful'

During the sixteenth century, people returned to their mother church for a service to be held on Laetare Sunday. This was either a large local church, or the nearest cathedral. Those who did this were said to have gone "a-mothering". In later times, Mothering Sunday became a day when domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother church, usually with their own mothers and other family members. Later still, this became a day for children working as domestic servants or apprentices to have a day off to visit their mothers and families.

Mothering Sunday was also known as Refreshment Sunday because the fasting rules for Lent were relaxed that day. Old and New Testament readings set by the 1662 Book of Common Prayer for mid-lent Sunday made a point of food. The Gospel reading from the New Testament told the story of how Jesus fed five thousand people with only five small barley loaves and two small fish (John 6:10-12).

The Book of Common Prayer epistle for the fourth Sunday in Lent honours maternal love: Galatians 4:26 declares that the "Jerusalem which is above is free; which is Mother of us all."

Barb Hayes

Leaders School / Servant Community Workshop

Well our 3 workshops on LS/SC have been successfully and enjoyably held @ the 3 venues of Cessnock Anglican Church on February 25th, then Tea Gardens Anglican Church on March 25th, and finally @ Belmont Anglican Church on April 29th.

A big thanks go to peoples of each Parish that supplied the usual warm and wonderful welcome that Anglicans are known for. Facilities for presenting the workshop enabled all to share in a relaxed atmosphere, their thoughts and insights into what a Servant Community does and consider the implications of being part of a Servant Community. An important message to come out of the workshop is that our 4th day is also about playing an active role in LSSC.

Our Diocesan Co Lay Directors Brian & Lyn led the workshop and we had two great musicians to lead us all in the "songs of Praise".

Comments from all the 75 Cursillistas who attended the workshops agreed the material presented from the ACMA manual was so encouraging and indeed essential in understanding how critical to Cursillo is LS/SC. *In fact it is the backbone of Cursillo!*

So why were these workshops run?

Answer....

- 1. To give an insight into the purpose and function of our Leaders School / Servant Communities program.
- 2. To prepare our people for a role as members of a Leaders School / Servant Community group.
- The Purpose of the Leaders' School/Servant Community is :
- ◆ To maintain a climate of 'progressive conversion' within the movement and among the Cursillistas.
- To establish and to encourage Group Reunions.
- To prepare and maintain authentic Ultreyas.
- To discern potential leaders for teams, Servant Communities, Secretariat and Three Day Programme Lay Directors and to assist with training if possible.

Day 20 Lake Macquarie - Clergy, Servant Community, Deanery Contact Brian Taylor

Day 21 Maitland - Clergy, Servant Community, Deanery Contact Wendy Brack

Day 22 Paterson - Clergy, Servant Community, Deanery Contact Colvin Ford

Day 23 Manning - Clergy, Servant Community, Deanery Contact Billie Baillie

Day 24 Upper Hunter- Clergy, Servant Community, Deanery Contact Tony Farmer

Day 25 Newcastle - Clergy, Servant Community, Deanery Contact Fr Chris Bullock

Day 26 Men's Camp Womens Camp?

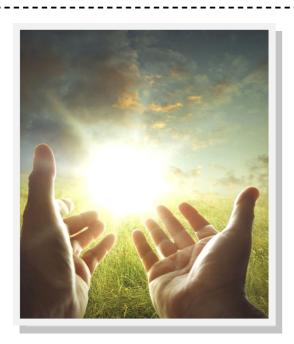
Day 27 Lay Director W46 – Lesley Byrne

Day 28 Lay Director M46 – Tony Farmer

Day 29 Prospective sponsors & Potential Candidates

Day 30 Fourth Day Community

Day 31 World Cursillo Community, Kairos, Torch, Kairos Outside



Men's Kairos Inside (KI) Cessnock & St Helier's update.

Greetings Cursillo Vets,

I thought whilst updating you all on Kairos Inside @ Cessnock & St Helier's for 2017, I'd give a brief history on this life changing ministry on the lives of many, many I men and their families both sides of the "barb wire fence" has had since this Diocese first introduced this program through the Anglican & Catholic Cursillo Movements! back in October, 1997. It is very encouraging to note that over the 20 years of KI in the Hunter Region, cursallistas have made great contributions to this ministry over those years, and continue to do so.

Over the 21 Cessnock and 9 St Heliers KI Men's (as of April, 2017) about 650 inmates have attended these short courses run at the Correctional Centres. Whilst KI is a male ministry of men ministering to men, we are blessed in both Correctional Centres that the chaplains have encouraged the catering / agape / prayer teams, which are made up predominately of women, to be part of the inside team. This is i unique to the Hunter Valley with our women being an essential part of the team.

Some of the "men in green" describe talking with the women as like talking to their mum or their grandmother – it's a refreshing and a valued opportunity. This uniqueness has allowed Kairos to thrive and it is the men in green who benefit!

Reading a copy of The Encourager, Issue #26 of 1997, on page 11, which shows the ilist of men and women who volunteered to be on that very first team of KI #1 Men's Cessnock. The final team of 38, of which 20 were Anglican Cursillistas, was led by Cursillista John Anderson, and on the preceding pages 8, 9 of that issue, John gave a great description of what Kairos Inside was about, and how the wider Christian ! Community could support this special ministry. The support was certainly given, and I all participants in KI 1 Cessnock Community were truly blessed over those 4 days and witnessed the Holy Spirit changing lives for the good! Who could ever forget the closing ceremony on that Friday night? Well it's nearly 20 years later, and we still have active, however aging, Kairos volunteers communities @ both St Helier's (Muswellbrook) & Cessnock. Our current volunteers, some from the early years, are

now a lot older, however still full of joy and en-! thusiasm as they serve Christ in His command to "visit those in prison", sharing all the incredible • blessings that come from a Christian Community in action. Continued over the page



2017 will see the restarting of the Kairos journey program, in midyear, after a 2 ½ year absence due to operational conditions at Cessnock. The prison population has increased dramatically, placing considerable strains on all staff, especially our Chaplains, Rev Di Langham & Major David Prigg.

We are always after more volunteers, to swell our ranks, in bring the Gospel message of faith, hope and love to the "men in green".

A comment from St Helier's chaplain, Rev. Scott Kelly really sums up what Kairos is about. "It brings mature men and women of faith into a correctional centre as leaven from which friendships can develop and grow. It helps people feel important and remember that they are not forgotten."

By the time you receive your next issue of The Encourager, KI 10 St Heliers, 22nd to 27th May, will have been conducted under the leadership of Stephen Thatcher, who was on KI #1 Cessnock, 1997.

Please keep these ministries in your thoughts and prayers, and if you are interested to "come & see", please contact me.

Cheers, Blessings & Ultreya!

Bill Nicolle.

M2 Newcastle



MONTHLY CURSILLO PRAYER DIARY

Pray everyday for our Bishop Peter along with our Diocese as we move to our healthy future remembering our past. Also praying daily for the election of our new Bishop.

- Day 1 National Lay Director Roger O'Hara
- Day 2 National Secretary Wendy Mabey
- Day 3 National Treasurer Leanne Doyle
- Day 4 National Webmaster TBA
- Day 5 National Spiritual Director Rev'd Steve Niland
- Day 6 Next National Meeting in Adelaide in September
- Day 7 National Episcopal Advisor Bishop Ian Palmer
- Day 8 Diocesan Co-Lay Directors Lyn Carter & Brian Walsh
- Day 9 Diocesan Spiritual Director Rev'd Steve Niland
- Day 10 Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Rev'd Barb Hayes
- Day 11 Diocesan Secretary Laurel Mitchell
- Day 12 Diocesan Treasurer & Copyright Noeline Darcy
- Day 13 Fourth Day Applications/Promotion Sue Cook
- Day 14 Prayer Co-ordinator David Marsh
- Day 15 Servant Community Co-ordinators Gail Iles & Bill Nicolle
- Day 16 Diocesan Proctor Michael Sinclair
- Day 17 'The Encourager' Editor Martina Bowen
- Day 18 Palanca Co-ordinator –Lynne Dunnicliff
- Day 19 Central Coast Clergy, Servant Community, Deanery Contact Noeline Darcy