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Happenings, Poems, Letters, Photos are invited from Cursillistas. Articles should generally be a maximum 300 words, 1 page, if typing use simple formatting.

If emailing attach in Word document or send as part of message.

Please forward articles to the editor: Martina Bowen at [leo.bowen.61@gmail.com](mailto:leo.bowen.61@gmail.com)

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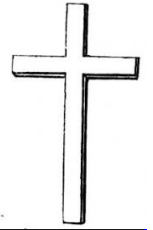
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# The Encourager



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Magazine of the Newcastle Cursillo Movement

You are never  
alone with  
**Jesus**

Hebrews 13:5



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# Spring/Summer 2017

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Please pray for

Please pray for

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@ St Paul's Beresfield

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OCT 2nd NOV 6th

DEC 4th

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**DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR, REV STEVE NILAND,**



**My Cup Runneth Over**

The theme for the September meeting of National Secretariat was taken from Psalm 23, verses 5 & 6: **<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. <sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

These verses suggest to me an abundance of hospitality at the banquet of the LORD.

In ancient Near-Eastern culture, at a banquet it was customary to anoint a person with fragrant oil. Hosts were also expected to protect their guests at all costs. God offers the protection of a host even when enemies surround us. In the final scene of this psalm, we see that believers will dwell with the LORD. GOD, the perfect shepherd and host, promises to guide and help us through life to bring us into his house forever.

The passage from John's gospel which describes the miracle of changing water into wine is very familiar to us, and in verse 11 we are told that <sup>11</sup>What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Jesus was on a mission to save the world – the greatest mission in the history of humankind. Yet, He took time out to attend a wedding and take part in its festivities lasting for a whole week. Many of us have succumbed to the temptation of not taking time out from our important work duties for social occasions – and I was very challenged while writing this! But what if these social activities were a part of our mission? Jesus valued wedding festivities because they involved people – and Jesus came to be with people. Our mission can often be accomplished by bringing Jesus into joyous times of celebration with others – it's all about balance.

To run out of wine at one of these wedding functions was considered to be the height of embarrassment for the host – it broke the strong though unwritten laws of hospitality in that culture. Jesus responded to this heart-felt need.

Tradition tells us that by the time of this wedding, Jesus' earthly Father, Joseph, was dead. Mary was probably not asking Jesus for a miracle but was hoping Jesus could help out by finding some more wine – and did He find some more wine!



CONT..

Jesus' reply to His mother – "Woman, why do you involve me?" sounded harsh and, even though she did not understand what Jesus was going to do, she trusted him do what was right.

And that is what we must do too – when we run into situations we don't understand, we must trust that Jesus will work in the best way. Mary submitted to Jesus' way of doing things. She recognised that Jesus was more than her human son – he was the Son of God.

When we bring our problems to Jesus, we may think we know how He should take care of them. But He may have a completely different plan. Like Mary, we should submit and allow Him to deal with the problem as He sees best. T

he six stone water jars were normally used for ceremonial washing. When full, the pots would hold anywhere from 20 to 30 gallons. According to the Jewish ceremonial law, people became symbolically unclean by touching objects of everyday life. Before eating, the Jews would pour water over their hands to cleanse themselves of any bad influences associated with what they had touched.

People look everywhere but to God for excitement and meaning. For some reason, there is this perception that GOD is dull and lifeless. Just as the wine JESUS made was the best, so, life in Him is better than life on our own. Why wait until everything runs out before trying God. Why save the best until last? When the disciples experienced the miracle, they believed. The miracle showed Jesus' power over nature, and revealed the way He would go about His ministry – helping others, speaking with authority, and being in personal touch with people.

Miracles are not merely superhuman events, but events that demonstrate God's chosen power. Almost every miracle Jesus performed was a renewal of fallen creation – restoring sight, making the lame walk, even restoring life to the dead. Believe in Christ – not because He is a superman but because He is the God who continues His creation, even in those of us who are poor, weak, crippled, orphaned, blind deaf, or with some other desperate need.

Jesus blesses us abundantly – preparing a table for us in the presence of our enemies; anointing our heads with oil; so that our cups overflow.

**Surely His goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. Amen**

## **A SPECIAL WORD ON PALANCA**

A special thanks firstly to the Servant Community members who did an amazing job with me sorting Palanca for the M&W 46 team and candidates.

**What a job....**it is always a blessing and a pleasure to be in the position of sorting the thousands of special love letters the many members send in, and a very big thank you to all.

We need to give a special mention to the Cursillistas who send them correctly marked, I know over the years we don't always remember the correct way to address the envelopes or notes.

**PLEASE** keep in mind for next time that all we need is;

**IN PEN:** Name and Number of Cursillo such as...Mary Smith W78 for example.

**IN PENCIL as this is to be rubbed out as we sort:** the day example 1 or 2 or 3 and there is really no need to write anything if it can go on any day. This is to be written in the top right hand corner where you would place a stamp.

**PLEASE:**

**DO NOT WRITE THE NUMBER ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE.**

As we sort the many letters and cards it is easy to miss the numbers on the back, so I ask your cooperation on this matter for future Cursillos.

If anyone would like to volunteer some time next Cursillo or even just observe how this is achieved you are welcome but let a Secretariat member know your interest. You may be surprised at the effort it takes. This year we worked from 11am-8pm.

De Colores,

Lynn Dunicliff,

Palanca Coordinator.







## GREAT NEWS FROM NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

At the last National Secretariat September meeting in Adelaide, **Jim Warland** our previous Co- DLD for Newcastle was elected NLD (National Lay Director). Jim replaces Roger O'Hara from Bendigo Diocese and will take over his duties following the next National Secretariat meeting in Cairns in August 2018. Most of us know Jim well and both he and his wife Barb have always been firm supporters of Cursillo and Jim is currently our webmaster, keeping us up to date with the happenings around the Diocese. Jim will do an excellent job in this very important role and accepts the challenge with our good wishes and prayerful support.

### One Thin Dime

*(Maybe you are discouraged about Cursillo's growth. Don't be):*

"I am encouraged by the true story of Martha Berry who lived from 1866-1942. Martha had a dream in her heart to start a school for needy children in Georgia. She began the work and found that she had many needy children, but not enough money. Upon one occasion she went directly to Henry Ford to ask him to donate money to help assist the school. With indifference, he reached into his pocket and handed her a dime.

"Martha graciously accepted the dime and bought some peanuts for her schoolboys to plant. The next year, the boys used the entire crop of peanuts to plant a larger field. The boys kept working the peanut crop and soon they had sold enough peanuts to buy a piano for their school. They were delighted and proud of their work.

"Martha Berry wrote a letter to Mr. Ford and told him what his dime had done. Ford was deeply touched and asked Martha to come to Detroit. When she arrived, Mr. Ford gave her a check for \$1 million! I wonder what would happen if we worked creatively with the "dimes" we have rather than complaining about what we don't have? We might find that peanuts can be more than just peanuts!"

***"Do the best you can, where you are, with what you have.  
It is then that you will see greater things unfold."***

August 31, 2007 by [sharingencouragement](http://sharingencouragement.com).



## DIOCESAN LAY DIRECTOR, BRIAN WALSH (RETIRING)

**With heartfelt thanks for the opportunity.**

Goodness me, where have the last three years gone??

It seems like only yesterday I agreed to be Co-DLD for Newcastle and this is my last contribution for the Encourager in that role.

I guess we wouldn't take on a job like this if we didn't feel we could make a significant contribution to the movement at the local level and I must admit that after the three years, I do feel quite inadequate now that we are reaching the end of our tenure and more than ever realise the enormous contribution others have made before me, particularly Helen Fraser and now my present Co DLD Lyn Carter.

Having been to a number of National Secretariat meetings I feel very privileged to have represented Newcastle at this level and can assure you that Newcastle Cursillo is held in very high regard and is considered one of the Nations leaders in its operation.

We are so fortunate that our movement is going so well after nearly 28 years and soon we will be celebrating our 30years here in Newcastle with a National gathering which is now in place and plans are already starting to come together for a really great celebration.

Since I have been in this role there have been a couple of things that have aroused my attention and we have tried to give them a boost in order that we remain strong and healthy. Thanks to the many people who share my thoughts. I, like them, pray that we remain committed to ensuring that our LSSC ( Servant Community) groups in each deanery continue to be healthy and vibrant and that our new veterans are encouraged to join their deanery group and play an active part in our Cursillo/church family.

I firmly believe that this is why we are one of the most successful Cursillo groups in the country and if we continue with this enthusiastic encouragement for our new veterans we will remain able to go forth with our mission in a confident and enjoyable way. There are some Cursillo groups within the country who have NO LSSC groups and we must continue to pray and support them in every way that we can.

I want to acknowledge the support which has been given by our local Secretariat and they deserve the prayerful thanks of each one of us. They are one of the most enthusiastic and dedicated groups I have had the pleasure of working with and it is my hope that future Secretariat members will continue in their ways.

Let us all continue to pray and support our beloved Cursillo in its mission. We have almost 1000 people who have completed their three day Cursillo weekend in the Diocese and we give thanks that most of them who are able have continued to support us as best they can.

Our work is NOT done there are thousands of potential veterans out there and we must never forget that.

With every Blessing; De Colores and Ultreya, Brian Walsh M35





**DIOCESAN LAY DIRECTOR LYN CARTER**

In the last issue of the Encourager Fr Steve invited us to remember the many smells and aromas that surround our daily lives, then he challenged us in how our lives could spread the sweet perfume of Jesus.

The recent response from the Candidates on MW46 reminded me of my own joyful experience and a fuller sense of God's love over my 3 day weekend and how I can make a difference and spread the sweet perfume of Jesus in my environment and to live as Christ in the world.

In the prayer to the Holy Spirit we pray, "Come Holy Spirit and fill our hearts, kindling in them the fire of your love."

I would like to encourage all of us to remember the fire that was stirring in our hearts after your 3 day experience and for us to keep the embers burning to help us in sustaining the Cursillo Movement and our faith journey through Piety—Study—Action.

We all have special gifts, may I appeal to you to feel so blessed to be chosen by God as one of His instruments to wherever our dear Lord may lead us to spread the sweet perfume of Jesus.

De Colores and Ultreya

Lyn Carter W14a



## **NOTICES FOR YOUR CALENDARS**

**For your prayers & encouragement  
to sponsor!**

**Newcastle Women's 47 Cursillo**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August**

**to**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2018.**

**Newcastle Men's 47 Cursillo**

**DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED**

**The venues are to be confirmed.**



## Kairos 10 St Heliers

A Kairos Inside Short Course was held at St Heliers Correctional Centre from 22-26 May 2017. The Short Course is for Residents (inmates) willing to undertake five days of intensive Christian Study. This leads to Residents being given the necessary tools to live out their Christian Faith in small groups once the Kairos Team departs. A team of 18 (13 men and 5 women) undertook intense training for four Saturdays, commencing 8 April and concluding 20 May. This Team bonded extremely well. The Chaplain and Correctional Centre Staff all proved to be very helpful and ensured the smooth running of the Short Course. The Residents and three helpers were all chosen by Scott (Chaplain) and all worked very well together from the first day.

Residents and Team members are allocated Table Groups (Families). There were six residents and two Team members (one of whom was Clergy) who stayed with the Residents to facilitate discussion. The rest of the Team looked after meals preparation, Agape, timing and supervision. Talk and meditations were led by the male Team and Clergy. Forgiveness plays a big part of the Program, culminating in a Forgiveness Ceremony. An 'open mike' session was held near the conclusion of the Course, in which Residents were encouraged to speak in their Family Groups about what changes happened to them during the Course. The culmination of the Course was the Closing Ceremony, in which members of the public and the Centres hierarchy were invited.

Highlights of the Course were the food the music and the bonding



## SECRETARIAT TREASURER



Hello from Noeline,

W35 ---Table of Esther

***"God is good, and his nature is always so loving towards us"***

I was honoured, when in 2011, I was asked by the Newcastle Diocesan Cursillo Secretariat to take on the position as Treasurer. Without hesitation and with prayer I was delighted to take on this task to serve our dear Lord in whatever way I could. With God's help I have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the last six years and I can honestly say I feel I have fulfilled this role to the best of my ability. My sincere thanks go to the Secretariat for granting me the privilege of being Cursillo Treasurer.

In my six years in the Secretariat I have met many lovely people with whom I had a good working relationship. God has blessed me in so many ways. One, he has given me a large Cursillo family, which I am very proud.

While I enjoy my involvement with Cursillo I feel that Cursillo has helped broaden my Christian outlook. This has enabled me answer God's call to assist wherever he wants me serve him. As I am so passionate about Cursillo, I am looking forward to his calling me to another ministry within Cursillo to serve in Love, Faith and Hope whom all things are made possible.

My prayer to you all is that God may encourage you, as we continue our Christian journeys. God bless you in your serving.

Ultreya and De Colores,

Noeline



**CURSILLO THREE DAYS, 2017**

**FROM TONY FARMER, M46 LAY DIRECTOR**

M46 Cursillo was a very spiritual time. It was encouraging that we were able to share the weekend with the ladies of W46. Although there were only two candidates at the beginning, one had to drop out halfway through the weekend. So we ended up with just one! However we were just as committed to the weekend as if we had several more. Our theme statement was from Romans 8:28 "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose." Our Theme Song was "Guide me O thou Great Jehovah." This is a natural song for men and we seemed to sing it better as the weekend went on. We sang all the songs with gusto and I am sure that our candidate will have good memories of the weekend. He will especially be inspired by the testimonies of the team members. I am sure that the team members grew spiritually over the weekend.

Bishop Peter celebrated the closing Eucharist and he was very encouraging with his sermon for the movement.

*Tony Farmer*

**A TIME APART**

**FROM RUTH MACFARLANE, W46 PROCTOR**

When you have been away and then come home, how do you describe your experience? You talk about what you have seen, what you have experienced, what you have learnt and the people you have met.

Well, I have "been away" at W46 at Quorrobolong Retreat. What I saw was a beautiful place, an opportunity to step aside and experience God's creation in a lovely rural bush setting in the Watagan Mountains. Tall gum trees and Australian bush. Accommodation was very comfortable and the food great! The staff were friendly and accommodating.

What I experienced was a time apart giving everyone the opportunity to grow in their understanding and their love of God through the talks, worship and prayer times. People who came to the weekend a little hesitant went home with a new understanding of what being in the family of God means. They responded to the talks, the chapel times and their table communities with enthusiasm and showing a readiness to go out to share the Gospel. I saw the team who had come to our first training day, a rather diverse, disassociated group of individuals, really work as a cohesive unit to show God's Love to all they came in contact with. I saw our S.A.s Michelle Hazel-Jawhary, Rosemary Gillham and Judy Walsh provide much support and inspiration. Rosemary saw us through team training but, sadly, had to withdraw through ill health. We were blessed that Judy Walsh was able to step in seamlessly at the last moment.

I learnt that God's family gain insight and strength from being together praying learning and sharing. I met many people who were willing to be open, to listen, to contribute and to grow.

Another weekend where God's presence and the Cursillo motto of make a friend, be a friend and take that friend gently to Jesus was achieved.

*Ruth McFarlane.*

**WELCOME! TO OUR NEW CURSILLISTAS**

**Men's 46 "Guide me O Thou Great Jehovah"**

**Women's 46 "The Lord is my refuge and my fortress"**

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Pat Allsop        | NELSON BAY          |
| Paul Ansted       | EAST MAITLAND       |
| Annie Austin      | CESSNOCK            |
| Mavis Bates       | WINDALE             |
| Gayleen Bayliss   | CESSNOCK            |
| Jeanette Deaves   | SOUTHLAKES          |
| Hanneke Dobson    | BELMONT NTH/REDHEAD |
| Kaz Francis       | WINDALE             |
| Karen Haines      | CHARLESTOWN         |
| Anthea Haughin    | WOY WOY             |
| Pauline Mitchell  | BELMONT             |
| Simone Payne      | BULAHDELAH          |
| Nicole Sargant    | CESSNOCK            |
| Jeanette Williams | CESSNOCK            |



Praise God for our wonderful Cursillo movement and all that it represents and may we all use this wonderful opportunity to bring others to the safety and security of our Lord Jesus Christ and fight hatred with the love of Jesus.

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

*Brian Walsh.*



## MAITLAND DEANERY CONTACT

Hi! My name is Wendy Brack W12, table of Mary Magdalene.

12 months ago Secretariat asked me to be Maitland Deanery's contact person. Previously Maitland Deanery was combined with Paterson and through lots of different reasons Cursillo had lost its interest and vitality in the two deaneries.

With no servant community in place I needed to start from scratch. So I invited all Cursillistas in the 7 parishes in the deanery to an informal lunch. 7 people from 3 different parishes came and there were apologies from people who were interested but couldn't come during the day because of work commitments. I asked these people to ask their parishes if they would be interested in holding an Ultreya this year.

At our next meeting 2 months later at night 9 people came representing 4 parishes. Cessnock had plans in place to have an Ultreya in July, East Maitland in August and Beresfield in October. Both the Ultreyas at Cessnock and East Maitland were well attended and there was a real sense of excitement about Cursillo in the Deanery again. What a wonderful response.

We were busy planning the 4<sup>th</sup> Day welcome to be held at St James Morpeth on 16<sup>th</sup> September. 13 people volunteered to help on this day with all the necessary jobs.

God sure works in wonderful and mysterious ways. The support I have received has been truly amazing and we forward to a successful 2018 in which a formal servant community will be formed.

Thanks be to God and De Colores

Wendy



## "Thank You, Keith Watson"

We give thanks for the dedication, commitment and in offering of Keith to God's service and the Cursillo Movement in this Diocese. Keith has shown great diligence as the Cursillo Roll Coordinator in the Newcastle Diocese for many, many years. We wish him well in his retirement from this position. He has put all his heart, soul, experience and love into offering himself to His service, he has furthered His Kingdom in this place and within the Cursillo Movement.

*May the Lord Bless you and protect you,  
May the Lord smile on you and be gracious to you,  
May the Lord show you His favour and give you His peace.*

De Colores and Ultreya

Your brothers and sisters in Christ,

Newcastle Anglican Cursillo Movement.

Thank You

## ULTREYAS ROUND THE DEANERIES:

*Many, many tanks to all the vets who contributed these articles. Please keep all the church informed and encouraged with your continuing Deanery Ultreya reports.*

## CENTRAL COAST DEANERY.

### **St John's Point Clare GOSFORD PARISH 23<sup>rd</sup> July**

33 members and visitors came to the little branch church at the invitation of Gosford Cursillistas, Revd Val McDonald and Peter Cane. We enjoyed singing to the accompaniment of Libby and David Harvey. We enjoyed Joyce Webster of Kincumber Parish with her witness talk beginning with "Let us Come Into God's House" and finishing with "Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer" and telling of her long, and recent, experience of people led to Christ through Know Your Bible.

Our Deanery is discussing holding Ultreyas on Sunday afternoons in 2018 to avoid market days, op shop rosters and other Saturday events. It would be amazing to be able to include every parish in the blessing and encouragement of Ultreya



**LAKE MACQUARIE DEANERY.**

**Toronto 28<sup>th</sup> May.**

Over 20 Cursillistas met in Toronto for the May Lake Macquarie Ultreya. Parishes represented were Belmont, Swansea, South Lakes and Toronto. The witness talk was given by Mrs Jo Curry-Hyde who spoke about her life long faith, strengthened when she was told she was the survivor of twins, the other having died at birth. The Rev'd Julie Turnbull, Rector of Toronto, responded and after group reunions led the service of Prayer, Praise & Proclamation

**Windale- 25<sup>th</sup> June**

A wonderful time of prayer was experienced by twenty five people from all over Lake Mac at Church of Transfiguration Windale for the winter Ultreya.

The afternoon flowed with lots of singing, and then a witness talk from Karen about the unending commitment and service of volunteers who run support groups for grandparents raising their grandchildren full time. She told how the example of volunteers love was the seed of faith planted in the grandparent carers and has led to baptisms and involvement in church activities across the diocese. Fr David gave very thoughtful spiritual direction and made us all think about our response to the call to service.

Group reunion followed and all experienced the joy of praying together in one mind. Windale is famous for hospitality and food was in abundance as usual.

**Swansea 23rd July**

A certain amount of confusion surrounded Swansea's Ultreya this year.

Our beloved sister in Christ, Reverend Chris Plumridge, was welcomed into the loving arms of our Saviour only shortly before serious planning was under way for Swansea's turn to host. Each of us knows how committed and encouraging Chris and Bill are when organising, and participating in, these gatherings of cursillistas in Swansea; and indeed throughout the deanery and diocese. In the days following Chris's, wonderfully attended, celebratory commemoration at St Peter's, there seemed some doubt that the Swansea Ultreya for 2017 was going ahead. As Chris would have expected: Lake Mac Servant Community stepped up and Ultreya'd on! The result being a joyful afternoon of memories, fellowship, song, challenging witness, insightful reflection, re-union and prayer held in St Peter's hall, Swansea

**DATES FOR LAKE MACQUARIE 2018 ULTREYAS**

19th January -----Belmont at 6:00pm

23rd February—South Lakes at 6.00 pm

March—NONE - Easter

27th April— Cockle Bay at 6.00 pm

27th May—Toronto at 1.30 pm

24th June—Windale at 1.30 pm

22nd July—Swansea at 1.30 pm

August—NONE - Cursillo Weekend.

23 September—Cardiff at 1.30 pm

26th October—Charlestown at 6.00 pm

**NEWCASTLE DEANERY.**

**New Lambton**

New Lambton Ultreya was attended by around 15 people. Rev. Selwyn Dornan was Spiritual Director, Ella Means Lay Leader, Noelene Lentfer Witness Speaker with Chris Lewis as Musician. Much warm fellowship, good singing and sharing was had.

**Lambton Parish. Fri 18th Aug**

Lambton Parish. Ultreya. was a Happy Evening of fellowship, our Witness Speaker was Marion Willey (Great & Interesting) our Guest priest was Rev Chris Bullock (spiritual reply ). Yummy Supper,

**Kotara South Ultreya** was held on 15<sup>th</sup> September. There were 19 people in attendance – our Muso was Robert Joice & as you might imagine with Robert at the Helm the music & singing was excellent and uplifting. The witness talk by Fr Ken Youman was very inspiring.

Ken was born in Armidale and raised in a loving family of whom he spoke highly – When living in Stockton he attended YAF & became a Lay Reader. He, like most of us, reached highs and lows in his spiritual journey – some “mountain top experiences” but plenty of low “valleys”. Sometimes God seemed so close and at other times it seemed he was nowhere to be found.

Ken found Cursillo and later on Alpha as mountain top moments where he felt close to God and felt the moving of the Holy Spirit.

Ken worked as an engineer at BHP but over the years found that he gradually developed 2 types of persona – one for the rough-and-tumble of work with the men at BHP and a different one for his Church life; until finally on one embarrassing occasion “BHP Ken” spoke out in his Church environment. Oops! In reflecting on this humiliating moment he realised that God was saying ‘you can't go on being 2 different people just fitting in with the people around you – it is God we should be trying to please not other people.

This revelation changed the way he looked at his life.

He encouraged each of us present to examine our spiritual calling and to be true to our beliefs in all situations. He said it was this factor that helped him assist many of his men at BHP in coping and moving on when it closed; although there were still some who couldn't cope.

Ken had earlier tried theological study and over the years was encouraged by various mentors to consider his spiritual calling. It was only in his 50s that one persistent mentor again suggested that he might consider a call to the priesthood. He referred to these mentors as “the hounds of heaven”.

And so it was that he approached the then Bishop and became accepted for the priesthood where he still serves in many capacities. Fr Fergus (our SD) gave an excellent review of the talk but pointed out that EVERYONE has a ministry for God – some are ordained to the priesthood but all Laity also have an important ministry. **What is yours?**