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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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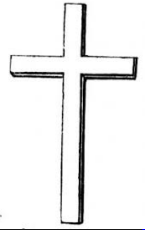
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Anglican Cursillo in Diocese of Newcastle

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# The Encourager



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Magazine of the Newcastle Cursillo Movement



# AUTUMN 2018

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## Please pray for

## SECRETARIAT MEETING

1st Tuesday of EACH MONTH

@ St Paul's Beresfield

FEB 6th MAR 6th APR 3rd

MAY 1st JUN 5th

JUL 3rd AUG 7th SEPT 4th

OCT 2nd NOV 6th

DEC 4th

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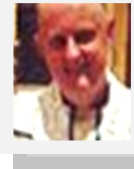
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**DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR, REV STEVE NILAND,**

**THE TRANSFIGURATION**

A word that is sometimes mentioned concerning God's nature is

**TRANSCENDENCE.** When we speak of "transcendence", we talk about that aspect of God's nature and power that is wholly independent of – or beyond – the known material universe or physical laws; beyond our common human experience. It is a difficult concept to grasp, so we tend to concentrate on the physical aspects of our faith. Yet, as Paul wrote in 2 Corinthians 4: *'For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. 'For it is the God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.* God gives us the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, so that we can begin to grasp something of what is beyond our human existence.

We say that God moves in mysterious ways – beyond what we can think of or imagine. The fiery chariot which carried Elijah to heaven, the burning bush in Exodus and the dazzling brightness of Jesus on the mountain are biblical examples of the awesome nature of God. We need not shy away from transcendent experiences like these, but should welcome them – even seek them since, throughout history, God has spoken in and through them. Almighty God steps into our lives to give us an awareness of His amazing power and authority.

In Mark's description of the transfiguration of Jesus, we hear how some quite ordinary people were completely amazed by the greatness of God. It's a bit like a crash course in learning things about God. If you've ever been on a crash course for anything you soon come to realize that it's no good going on any kind of course unless what is learnt is put into practice.

Jesus had gone up the mountain with Peter, James and John and was transfigured right there in front of them. His disciples did not know what was happening, or why. Peter was so terrified when Moses and Elijah appeared on the mountain that he started to say things he did not quite understand. He was scared. The transfiguration was something of a crash course.

On the way down from the mountain, Jesus explained to the disciples that they were not to tell anyone what they had seen; not until after He had risen from the dead. He was preparing them for His own death – something they could not understand. It only began to make sense after Jesus had died, risen and returned to heaven. For now, they were aware that there were things they had to do, and so went on expecting Jesus to do great things. God does not do what we expect. Peter, James and John were caught up in awe and wonder at His power and might – at what we might call "transcendence".

God is bigger, greater and more amazing than the limited pictures we have of Him and He wants to communicate wonderful things to us.

The top of a mountain is an awesome site and offers an unforgettable vista. In the transfiguration account it was a place of revelation of God to human beings. The transfiguration shows us the splendour of heaven. We can only imagine what such an amazing encounter would have been like. Thankfully, we are the beneficiaries of this event – we have been called into a relationship with Jesus, the beloved Son of God. By listening to His word, and applying it to our lives, we are transformed. May our lives be transfigured by God this Lent.



## DIOCESAN CO-LAY DIRECTOR BILL NICOLLE

Greetings my brothers and sisters in Christ. My name is Bill Nicolle, the Table of St Matthew, Men's 2 Cursillo, Newcastle, July 1990.

It is with some awe and trepidation that I accepted this position as Co Lay Director of the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle.

Thoughts of what's the commitment, am I worthy, what's involved, why me, and the list could go on.

When I looked around at the Secretariat members of 2017 (you will recall I had just joined Secretariat in 2017, as Gail's (learner) in Servant Community, recalled my past involvement in Cursillo and how it has been the direction of my life in Christ over these past 28 years, all the wonderful brothers & sisters I've met, all part of a larger vibrant family and community, living out our Christian Faith in our Christian Communities in action. That encouragement and sense of belonging made the acceptance of Co LD seem natural, and all so humbling!

I am looking forward with great excitement working alongside Lyn and Secretariat in ensuring that The Newcastle Anglican Cursillo Movement will continue to contribute this vibrant, loving, welcoming Diocese of Newcastle.

So a bit about me.

Before giving up paid employment, I worked as a professional Mechanical Engineer in heavy Industry, Education and finally Energy Management consulting,

I worship @ All Saints Morisset, and am involved in many ministries running at All Saints, and love being part of that vibrant welcoming church family. Glenda & I have 3 adult children, who have all done their Cursillo's, and needless to say, bring great joy to us as they continue in their Christian journey's.

As with many, my Cursillo changed my life. The joy of that weekend! The 4<sup>th</sup> day living in the unconditional love of God, recognised and experienced through the Cursillo movement, continues to have significant meaning in my life.

Cursillo has broadened my outlook & outreach, involving me in many, many Curillo's over these 28 years, and back in 1997 saw me volunteer to be on team for Men's Kairos Inside #1 @ Cessnock Correctional Centre. This journey "with the boy's in green" still continues today, with Glenda and I being part of both St Helier's (Muswellbrook) & Cessnock Kairos Communities Inside programs.

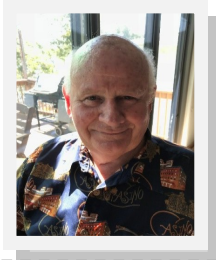
My Cursillo & Kairos journeys continue to encourage me as they apply our Cursillo motto of Make a friend.

Be a friend.

Bring that friend, gently to Jesus!

May encourage you all, as we continue our Christian life journeys.

Cheers, Blessings & Ultreya!



Day 18 'The Encourager' Editor—Martina Bowen

Day 19 Palanca Co-ordinator—Lynn Dunncliff

Day 20 Central Coast—Clergy, Servant Community,  
Deanery Contact Noeline Darcy

Day 21 Lake Macquarie—Clergy, Servant Community,  
Deanery Contact Brian Taylor

Day 22 Maitland—Clergy, Servant Community,  
Deanery Contact Wendy Brack

Day 23 Paterson—Clergy, Servant Community,  
Deanery Contact Chris & Lewis Palmer

Day 24 Manning—Clergy, Servant Community,  
Deanery Contact Billie Baillie

Day 25 Upper Hunter—Clergy, Servant Community,  
Deanery Contact Tony Farmer

Day 26 Newcastle—Clergy, Servant Community,  
Deanery Contact Fr Chris Bullock

Day 27 Women's WCOF & Men's Camp

Day 28 Lay Director's W47 Jane Sinclair & M47 David Marsh

Day 29 Prospective Sponsors & Potential Candidates

Day 30 Fourth Day Community

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



## MONTHLY CURSILLO PRAYER DIARY

Pray everyday for Bishop Peter along with our Diocese as we move to our healthy future remembering our past.

- Day 1 National Lay Director— Roger O'Hara
- Day 2 National Lay Director Elect—Jim Warland
- Day 3 National Secretary—Paul Doyle
- Day 4 National Treasurer—Leanne Doyle
- Day 5 National Episcopal Advisor—Bishop Ian Palmer
- Day 6 National Spiritual Advisor—Rev'd Steve Niland
- Day 7 National Webmaster—Phillip Barrington
- Day 8 Next National Meeting in Cairns in August
- Day 9 Diocesan Co-Lay Directors— Lyn Carter & Bill Nicolle
- Day 10 Diocesan Spiritual Director— Rev'd Steve Niland
- Day 11 Diocesan Spiritual Advisor— Rev'd Michelle Hazel -Jawhary
- Day 12 Diocesan Secretary— Laurel Mitchell
- Day 13 Diocesan Treasurer— Colleen Read
- Day 14 Fourth Day Applications/Promotion— Sue Cook & Lyne Parsons
- Day 15 Prayer Co-ordinator—Rev'd Chris Bullock
- Day 16 Servant Community Co-ordinators—Gail Iles & Barb Hayes
- Day 17 Diocesan Proctor—Steve Parsons

## NEW SECRETARIAT MEMBERS



My role on Secretariat is to be Prayer Chain Coordinator for the next three years. Since I have previously served on Secretariat in other roles, I am looking forward to this new position.

I completed my Cursillo in 2000 as part of M25.

I am presently the Deanery Contact for Newcastle.

My working background is basically in education. Following university, I taught in a boarding school in Sydney. After five years, I had the opportunity to travel overseas teaching in UK, US and New Zealand.

On return to Australia in 1972, I met and married Jeanette who was working as the School Sister. We have three adult children.

We moved to Armidale then to Charters Towers (NQ), eventually coming to the Hunter in 1989 to be involved in the opening Scone Grammar School.

I was ordained 1978 in North Queensland by Bishop John Lewis. I was Principal of All Souls' and St Gabriel's School.

After 10 years in Scone, I came to Newcastle and served in the Parish of Waratah. This provided both Jeanette and I with the opportunity to be involved with Cursillo.

Since coming to faith at 18 while at university in Sydney, I have seen my involvement with family, school, church and the wider community as part of my "vocational calling". God has been very gracious to me!

My name is Colleen Read I did my Cursillo W32, in 2004 on table Elizabeth.

I worship at St Matthew's Anglican Church Georgetown.

My husband passed away in 2000, since then I have been strengthened in my faith journey,

During this time God has given me many surprises, I have found myself involved from Clinical Pastoral Care, working at the Mater for 7 years, to studying E.F.M. and being Treasurer at St. Matthew's. I feel very honoured and a privilege to be working on Secretariat as the Treasurer.

I feel somewhat a work in progress. As Jesus said "Where two or three are gathered in my name know that I am with you".

De Colores Colleen Read



## Cursillo in Church Growth

A proposal was tabled at Secretariat from Bruce and Helen Fraser suggesting that Cursillistas from the Diocese donate to a fund to sponsor the attendance of interested Ordinands at Cursillo weekends; we are all no doubt conscious that trainees can be under much pressure, and how incredible it would be for them not to have one more payment to come up with.

Perhaps many of you do give additionally to your annual \$20 contribution, and many would therefore like to give an additional sum to be set aside for such an Apostolic Action. It may even be sent to thank God for the life of a past stalwart of Cursillo, a family member or friend.

Maybe some of our newer Clergy do not appear to understand the benefits of encouraging Cursillo in their Parishes. It was felt that this, initiative would create greater support from our clergy to the benefit of the Cursillo Movement, for Cursillo Weekends, for our Parishes and our Diocese.

Bishop Peter has sanctioned and embraced the idea with his blessings.

A motion was passed re the establishment of this fund and for all Forth Day Communities is encouraged to support it.

Donations of any amount would be gratefully accepted ; cheques should be made out to Newcastle Anglican Cursillo and sent to PO Box 174, Waratah, 2298; or direct deposit BSB 032501 a/c 130926; reference *Ordinand Sponsorship donation*. In addition could our new treasurer Colleen Read be e-mailed and notified of the deposit at [colleen.read@bigpond.com](mailto:colleen.read@bigpond.com)

De Colores and Ultreya

Lyn Carter and Bill Nicolle; Diocesan Co Lay Directors



## NOTICES FOR YOUR 2018 CALENDARS

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

**Newcastle Women's 47 Cursillo**

**Lay Director—Jane Sinclair**

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August.

**Newcastle Men's 47 Cursillo**

**Lay Director—David Marsh**

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September to Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September.

At

**Catalina Conference Centre Rathmines**

**Registration Forms available on web site**



## WCOF Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ P/code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ mob: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact in emergency \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Parish: \_\_\_\_\_

Cost : Single Room \$320  
Shared Room (2 or 3) \$290 I'd like to share with  
\_\_\_\_\_

Direct Deposit to Westpac BSB 032501 A/N 130926  
with WCOF as the description.

My Payment: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your registration by 1 April to:  
Sue Cook 131 Gladgunson Dr: Eleebana 2282

Weekend Co-ordinator, Barb Hayes ph: 0423045072

Email: bjhayes54@gmail.com or

Lyn Carter ph: 0408 684 172: Email glcart@bigpond.com

(NB Cancellation: over 14 days: 100% of fee refundable) over 5  
days 50% of fee refundable)

All linen is supplied.

Do you have any special dietary requirements?  
\_\_\_\_\_



## 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?

### Confirmed (to date) Newcastle Deanery Ultreya Dates for 2018

Friday January 19th	Cathedral (CONFIRMED)
Friday June 15th	Merewether (CONFIRMED)
Friday July 13th	New Lambton (CONFIRMED)
Friday August 17th	Lambton (CONFIRMED)
Friday September 21st	Kotara South (CONFIRMED)

All Ultreyas 6 for 6.30pm



## Deanery Ultreya at Charlestown - October 2017

We all know that it isn't quantity that's important, it's quality and our Ultreya was testimony to that. With a 6.00pm for 6.30pm start advertised, we were delighted to have quite a number of people arrive early so the music started at 6.15pm with everyone singing with gusto.

We are fortunate at St Albans to have a carpeted, air conditioned meeting room just perfect for prayer groups, and with our gathering of 26 people meant we could meet comfortably "in the round". New Cursillistas were welcomed which is always a joy.

Our dinner table was almost a banquet again and it never ceases to amaze how the meal takes shape. Once fed, more singing with gusto.

Stuart Bell honoured us with his Witness Talk and Rev'd Terry Frewin reflected on Stuart's talk. The Community Response was interesting with many people sharing.

Our Ultreya followed the usual format with Floating Group Reunion and a service of praise.

During the evening the Veterans were encouraged to select their own choice of song which made for an interesting blend of music and praise to our Lord. Our musician for the evening, Robert, was in his element!

De Colores and Ultreya.  
Helen Joice – W3



## Women Celebrating Our Faith

*Jesus said, "Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly." Matthew 11:30 MSG*

Newcastle Cursillo has again organised a weekend for women to celebrate their faith. This is for all women, you don't need to have done Cursillo. Please come and join us as we spend time with our Lord. We will be exploring what the bible says about self care, mindfulness and intentionality as well as being exposed to other ways to spend quality time with Jesus.

The venue will be the Catalina Conference Centre at Rathmines, situated on the western shores of beautiful Lake Macquarie, between Toronto and Morisset.

This is a spacious, very comfortable, single-level facility, surrounded by parks and walkways. A beautiful and peaceful place.

**Date:** April 20 to 22.

**Cost:** Single Room           \$320  
          Shared Room (2 or 3) \$290

All linen supplied.

Arrival is from 4pm (with a welcome at 6pm and dinner at 6.30pm). We will finish at 3pm on Sunday.

Deadline for bookings is April 1.



Thoughts—Contributed from John Willis: Men's 19

I never got around to asking my Mum why she called me John.

I have been back through some of the family history and there are no "Johns" that I could have been called after. So, as you might expect, I haven't given much thought to my name., but there is one name that has caught my interest lately. A name only God gives, a unique, one-of-a-kind, once-to-be-given name.

What am I talking about? Well, you may not know it, but God has a new name for you. When you get home with God, He won't call you Bob, or Betty, or Desiree, the name you've always heard won't be the one he uses, when God says "**He will make all things new**", He means it. You will have a new home, a new body, a new life, and you guessed it—a new name." I will also give to each one who wins the victory a white stone with a new name written on it. No one knows this new name except the one who receives it" (Rev,2:17).

Sometimes Mothers are fond of giving their children special names like "princess" or "Tiger", now maybe you didn't get a special name or maybe you've devoted much of your time making a name for yourself? Apparently your future is so promising it warrants a new title. The road ahead is so bright a fresh name is needed.

So God has one reserved just for you. There is more to your life than you ever thought possible, there is more to your story than what you have read, there is more to your song than what you have sung. A good author saves the best for last, A great composer keeps his finest for the finish. And God, the author of life and composer of hope, has done the same for you.

The best is yet to come, so I urge you don't give up. So I plead, finish the journey. So I exhort, be there.

**Be there when God whispers your name.**



## **KEITH WATSON, a Faithful Servant.**

In February 1990, four of us bundled into a car for a 6-hour drive to Overdale just south of Junee to experience Cursillo for the first time, as did Bishop Alfred. That was when I met Keith Watson; he was a fellow passenger from the next parish.

A jovial short person, he was easy to get on with, and fitted into our group well for such an initially long trip with three blokes that he didn't know, then: Len Goff, Ben Larsen and me.

His wife Ann wished him to experience for himself the encouragement that she had experienced a number of years earlier in Canberra-Goulbourn Diocese through the Cursillo method. We were heading to Overdale as Cursillo had not begun in Newcastle at that time. After our weekend we embraced the joy and encouragement that we had received, by forming a weekly Group Reunion at Keith's home, after work and before dinner, and included Tony Blanch who had come from Grafton Diocese Cursillo.

What a great group that was!

When Cursillo came to Newcastle a few months later, Keith was only too willing to be involved in helping to share the experience by being on team for M2, 3, 4, 6, then Lay Director of M13, and Assistant Proctor for M27. As well, he set up and faithfully kept up to date the Diocesan Cursillo Roll which grew into the 1000s, including printing Encourager labels, from the beginning and for 27 years, only relinquishing the job last year when he was unable to continue due to his cancer.

We miss this fine quiet trooper and give thanks for his life and his apostolic action.

Bruce Fraser, Canberra-Goulburn Men's 26 1990



## JEROME'S GIFT - a new release book by TRENT DENHAM

Many readers of THE ENCOURAGER will know, or know of, Don and Susanna DENHAM who are long time worshippers at St. Johns Raymond Terrace. Susanna is well known for playing the Organ, teaching music and both for Choir singing. It seems talent runs in this family for their son Trent has written a book called **JEROME'S GIFT**. 'On the surface it is a simple adventure story about a young boy called Jerome. He grows up in difficult times and has to find inspiration from around him, and find creative ways to solve his problems. Underneath, it is much, much more!' I feel blessed to know Trent and we have e-mailed back and forth a few times since my first reading of this book, have read it 6 times now and know I will read it many more times plus I could look at the incredible art work (all done by Trent) for hours, it has added to my life in the most amazing ways.

### What IS Jerome's Gift?

- It is simple the materials given to him by the village fold?
- Or is it more the combined legacy (in mind and deed and spirit and intent)?
- Is his gift the people themselves: his friends, family, strangers, the animals?
- Or is it what he can do for his people?
- Is it his ability to solve problems, his creativity?
- Or his patience and observation that lead him to those conclusions?
- Or is it his connection to the ONE and the *EVERYTHING* that enables him to see it?
- Is it the gift of his hands or of his heart?

**Jerome's Gift is all these things, and more, He sees through the veil of doubt, to his own personal epiphany, one that will lead him to many wisdoms, and open the door to many new mysteries.**

(From web page) With gold embossed line hard cover and stitch binding, and 48 pages of detailed, high crafted illustrations, this book is a feast of quality artwork and storytelling. It doesn't matter if you are 3 or 102, this is a story that will resonate with any age with its gentle rhythm, details imagery and expansive landscapes.



Jerome's gift is available for purchase at [www.jeromesgift.com](http://www.jeromesgift.com)

## GROUPING AFAR

How do you keep up meeting in group reunion when one of your mates goes bush to live on an isolated farm 60 kms from the nearest town? Well thanks to the wonder of modern technology and the internet we keep in touch via Skype. Most Thursdays our group contacts Alan and we share our blessing and challenges to encourage each other in our walk with Jesus.

I have been able to be in a group reunion for these past 28 years. The personnel have varied over that time and the meetings have been kept mostly to an hour for they have been after work but before the evening meal.

Group Reunion is not a bible study and a therapy session but an opportunity to vocalise my experience of Jesus in my life, or share what I found interesting that I've come across in the bible, a book or on the internet, etc. Then comes the challenge how have I shared God's love with another human being since I've met with my friends. Praying for each other and things such as who would God have me sponsor to the next week-end, or Kairos needs, or the leaders and team for the coming Cursillo. We all need encouragement in our walk with Jesus and there are times when my friends have pointed to blessings that I was blind to.

May your experience of Group Reunion be one of support and encouragement as you walk through life "in the hand of the man that stilled the water."

De Colores! Bruce Fraser

