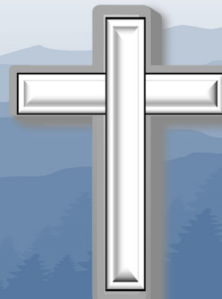


# The Encourager



Print Post 100003354 August, 2020 - Number 106 Magazine of the Newcastle Cursillo Movement

*Even in the darkness of our sufferings*



*Jesus is close to us.*

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*Please pray for SECRETARIAT MEETING  
1st Tuesday of each month @ All Saints New Lambton  
4th August, 1st September, 6th October, 3rd November.*

## FROM OUR DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR



Dear Friends

On Wednesday 8 July, the Gospel reading was from Matthew 10: 1-7.

JESUS had already *called* His 12 disciples. He didn't draft them, force them, or ask them to volunteer; He chose them to serve Him in a special way. JESUS calls us today. He doesn't twist our arms and make us do something we don't want to do. We can choose to join Him, or we can choose to remain behind.

This list of JESUS' 12 disciples doesn't give us many details – probably because there aren't many impressive details to tell. JESUS called people from all walks of life – fishermen, political activists, and tax collectors. He called common people and uncommon leaders; rich and poor, educated, and uneducated.

Today, many people think only certain people are fit to follow CHRIST; but this is not the attitude of the Master Himself. GOD can use anyone, no matter how insignificant he or she appears or thinks they appear. GOD calls ordinary people to do extraordinary work. He doesn't call the equipped – He equips the called.

JESUS sent his disciples to go only to the Jews because He came first to the Jews. GOD chose the Jews to tell the rest of the world about Him. Jewish disciples and apostles then preached the Gospel of the Risen CHRIST all around the Roman Empire – and soon Gentiles were pouring into the Church. The Bible clearly teaches that GOD's message of salvation is for ALL people – regardless of race, sex, or national origin.

The Jews were waiting for the Messiah to usher in His kingdom. JESUS spoke of a spiritual kingdom, not a military one as the people thought. JESUS the Messiah, has already begun His kingdom on earth in the hearts of His followers. One day this kingdom will be fully realised. The evil will be destroyed, and all people will live in peace with one another.

Everyday, is a new opportunity to seek the LORD. We can always pause and ask: Where is GOD in this? Like His disciples, we, too, have been given the authority and the ability to proclaim the Gospel in our everyday lives. When we start each day by seeking



GOD with our whole heart, spending time with Him in the Word and allowing Him to fill us with His grace and love, we are better able to serve Him and offer up our whole day for Him. Regardless of what may be going on in our personal lives, now is the time to seek the LORD. Never feel as though you aren't good enough.

The way we live our lives is sometimes the only Gospel some people experience. Do we stay connected to Him? What areas of life do we need to open up in order to deepen our relationship with Him?

De Colores

*Fr Steve*



**When We Spend  
Our Time On God**

**It Is Time  
Well Spent**

**Every Day With Jesus**

**Every day with Jesus**

**Is sweeter than the day before**

**Every day with Jesus**

**I love Him more and more.**

**Jesus saves and keeps me**

**And He's the One I'm waiting for**

**Every day with Jesus**

**Is sweeter than the day before.**

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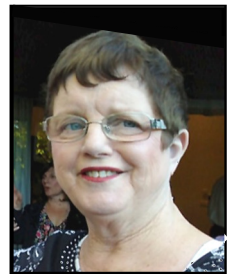
# MONTHLY CURSILLO PRAYER DIARY

Pray everyday for Bishop Peter along with our Assistant Bishops Sonia and Charlie and our Diocese as we move to our healthy future remembering our past.

- Day 1 National Lay Director - Jim Warland
- Day 2 National Secretary - Paul Doyle
- Day 3 National Treasurer - Marea Niland
- Day 4 National Episcopal Advisor - Bishop Ian Palmer
- Day 5 National Spiritual Advisor - Reverend Steve Niland
- Day 6 National Webmaster - Allan Grey
- Day 7 World Cursillo Community
- Day 8 Diocesan Co-Lay Directors - Noelene Lentfer
- Day 9 Diocesan Co-Lay Directors - Bill Nicolle
- Day 10 Diocesan Spiritual Director - Reverend Steve Niland
- Day 11 Diocesan Secretary - Rosemary Allen
- Day 12 Diocesan Treasurer - Colleen Read
- Day 13 Fourth Day Applications/Promotion – Lyne Parsons
- Day 14 Prayer Coordinator - Reverend Chris Bullock
- Day 15 Servant Community Co-ordinator - Brian Taylor
- Day 16 Servant Community Co-ordinator - Jeanette Deaves
- Day 17 Diocesan Proctor - Steve Parsons
- Day 18 'The Encourager' Editorial Team
- Day 19 Palanca Co-ordinator - Lynn Dunicliff
- 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 and 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 Lay Directors - W49 Lorraine Phillips
- Day 28 Lay Directors - M49 David Koch
- Day 29 Prospective Sponsors and Potential Candidates
- Day 30 Fourth Day Community
- Day 31 Kairos, Torch and Kairos Outside/Inside/Juvenile



*FROM OUR DIOCESAN CO-LAY DIRECTORS -  
NOELENE LENTFER AND BILL NICOLE*



**Greetings to all Cursillistas  
throughout this wonderful Diocese of Newcastle.**

Welcome to the August Edition of the 2020 Encourager.

It was with great disappointment to us all that our planned events for 2020 had to be postponed:-

- Men and Women's 49 in August was postponed until 2021.
- Our hosting the National Secretariat meeting and our celebration of 30 years of Cursillo, in this Diocese, to be rescheduled when restrictions allow.
- All planned Deanery Ultreyas have not been possible.

As we write this letter, we thank God that there is "a small light now, at the end of the tunnel of uncertainty" which may well open up the opportunities for us to return to some normality of life, and hence rescheduling the planning of events. A proposed programme with dates for 2021 has been developed and hopefully we will be able to pass this on soon.

These have been difficult months for all of us, with no physical participation at Church services, (we have become well acquainted with Zoom) and unable to participate in all the many, ministries that we, the Church, are involved in, in our communities, bringing Christ's love into our environments, being on hold.

On the other hand, it has been a good lesson in being a responsible member of our communities, as we follow the direction and leadership of our Bishop, and our democratically elected Leaders. We have been blessed, that by good government, that followed sound Medical and Scientific advice, that our country has emerged, relatively free of the pandemic, and that all people have accepted the government guidelines of self-isolation etc.

We will be living with the Pandemic for a little longer, so much prayer is needed.

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June, we (Noelene and Bill) were invited to join a National Secretariat meeting, by Jim Warland our National Lay Director. Fr Steve and Marea Niland are also part of National Secretariat, so we had a good Novocastrian presence, amongst our Tasmanian, Melbourne, Perth and Brisbane Secretariat members.

Points raised for consideration included:

- ◇ Uncertainty of interstate travel restriction, and will there be a quarantine period on return to home state?
- ◇ Application of the 4 square meter rule and is singing allowed?
- ◇ As any Cursillo gathering is a very communal event, it would suffer by the forced isolation between veterans.

It became very clear that an option of holding a National Secretariat meeting in conjunction with a possible 30 year celebration of Cursillo in our Diocese in November 2020, was not possible, and so an alternative which National Secretariat will investigate is a Zoom meeting at a date to be advised.

We will discuss at Secretariat at our August meeting, the 30 year Celebration and Diocesan Ultreya options, as we will have a clearer picture of how things are progressing with the pandemic and advise you all as soon as possible:-

- ⇒ in the next Encourager,
- ⇒ on our Website
- ⇒ via our Deanery and Parish Contacts.

May we encourage you all in keeping in contact with each other and please continue to uphold all of the Newcastle Cursillo Secretariat in your prayers, as we await further developments and follow the Holy Spirits guidance in our decision making.

Until we can meet together again, be assured of our Love and Prayers.  
De Colores and Ultreya.

*Noelene and Bill*

Co L.D's of the Anglican Cursillo Movement of the Newcastle Diocese.







## A SPECIAL PRAYER FOR DAILY USE

*(Written by Reverend Jan Deaves)  
Diocesan Spiritual Adviser 2006-2009*

Gracious God,  
we thank you for all the colours of your love.  
We hold before you our Cursillo community  
and ask for your  
continuing love and guidance.

As you keep your promises to us,  
may we be true to the promises  
we have made to you.

Through piety may we feel  
your presence and identify the vision  
you have for each one of us.

Through study may we gain new insights  
and explore the vision we seek.

Through apostolic action  
may we share your love with others  
as we live the vision before us.

This we pray in the name of your Son  
and through the power  
of the Holy Spirit within us.

Amen

Yes, We Are

## THE PRAYER MINISTRY REMAINS OPEN

**OPEN**

Our Prayer Ministry within Cursillo provides us with one opportunity to share our prayers – joys and challenges – with others across the Diocese.

"Better Together" is a call that we have heard often in recent days. Secretariat would like to encourage the use of our prayer ministry for standing together with each other. As the Body of Christ, we are stronger when we are united. Shared prayer is one of the means of doing this.



*Prayer requests may be sent via  
Parish Contacts or directly to:  
Fr Chris (our Prayer Chain Coordinator)  
[cbullock2@bigpond.com](mailto:cbullock2@bigpond.com)  
for distribution to Cursillistas in our Diocese.*

### A REFLECTION - "How do I pray – at a time like this?"

This question is not unique to our time, or our circumstances. It is a question that has been asked by followers of Jesus from the beginning.

The answer of Jesus was the prayer that we call the Lord's Prayer:-

- <sup>9</sup> Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.
- <sup>10</sup> Your kingdom come.  
Your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.
- <sup>11</sup> Give us this day our daily bread.\* (or *our bread for tomorrow*)
- <sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
- <sup>13</sup> And do not bring us to the time of trial,\* (or *into temptation*)  
but rescue us from the evil one.\* (Or *from evil*. Other ancient  
authorities add, in some form, *For the kingdom and the power and  
the glory are yours for ever. (Amen.)*)



(NRSV Matthew 6.9-13)

The desire to have God's kingdom here on earth is a key focus. We are called to be agents of God's loving grace. This requires amendment and action. We seek God's protection and empowerment in this task.

Sometimes, we do not know how to pray. It is difficult to put into words the "cry of the heart". Grief is one example. Jesus wept outside the tomb of his friend Lazarus, for example. The Spirit articulates for us – in line with God's intentions.

Paul expresses this fact in his letter to the Roman Christians:

26 Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Peace, the "peace of God", is the consequence of taking all our joys and concerns to God.

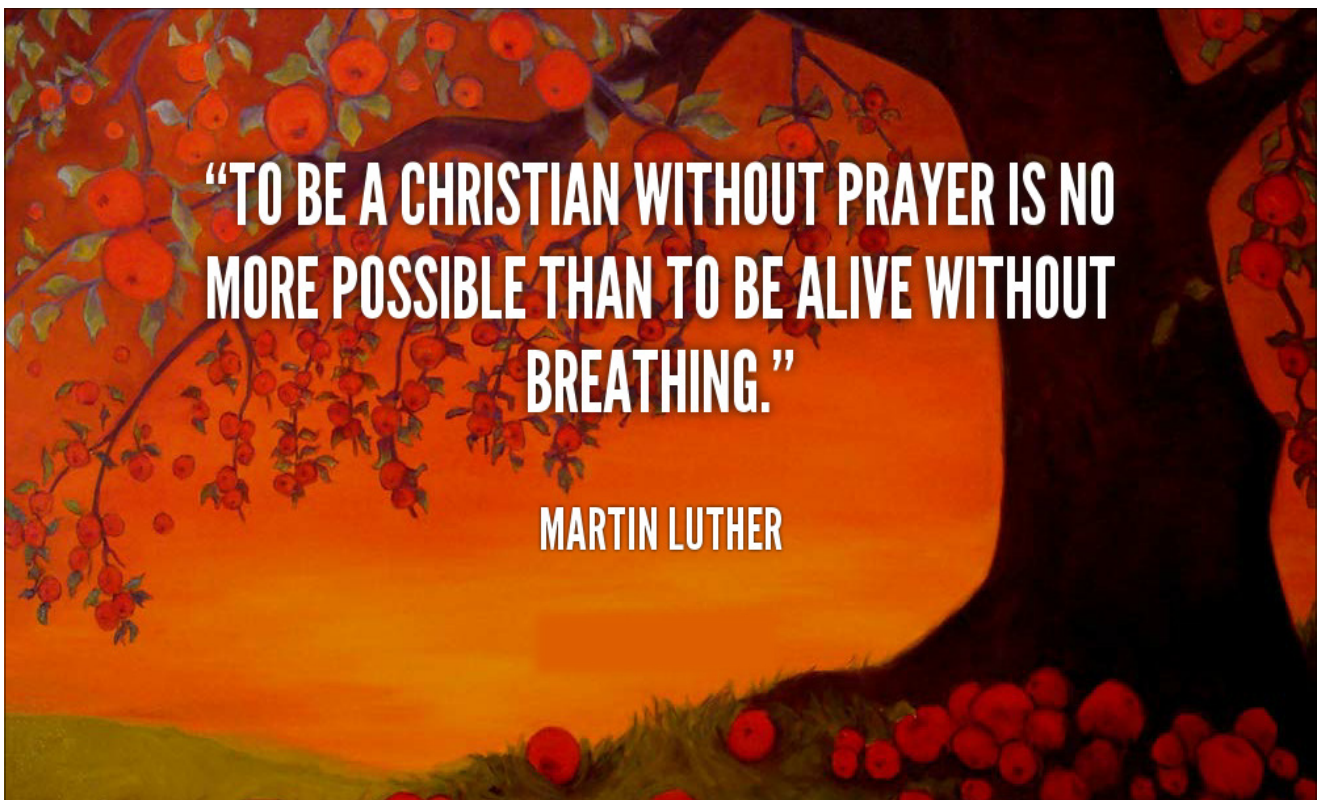
(NRSV Romans 8.26-27)

Again, Paul writes to the Philippians:

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

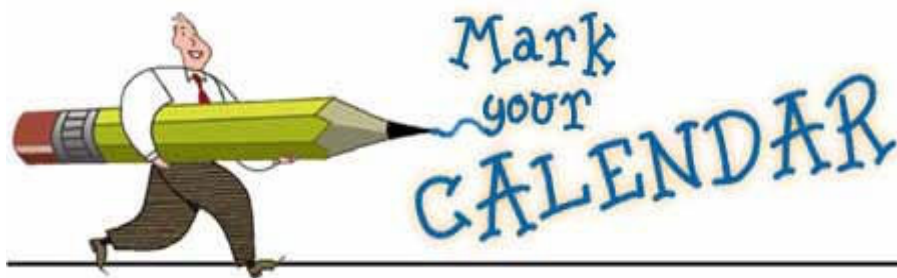
(NRSV Phil 4.4-7).

At a "time like this" the words of Martin Luther remain relevant:



*Reverend Chris Bullock*  
Prayer Chain Coordinator.





## ***PROPOSED DATES 2021***

Men's Weekend		May ?
Women's 49	Lorraine Phillips	12 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> August Catalina
Men's 49	David Koch	26 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup> August Catalina
Training Days	1 <sup>st</sup> .	8 <sup>th</sup> May
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup> May
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup> June
	4 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup> June
	5 <sup>th</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup> July
	6 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup> July
Welcome Day	M/W 49	11 <sup>th</sup> September
Diocesan Ultreya		6 <sup>th</sup> November





## REPORT FROM NATIONAL CURSILLO

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Cursillo in Australia During COVID-19 has suspended many of our plans and ideas.

However Cursillo has now learned to ZOOM. (i.e. we have been using the programme 'Zoom' to stay connected and Brisbane Diocese has even held 2 Ultreyas via Zoom – which have had over 80 participants from local, interstate and overseas.

Our National Executive met last month via Zoom and we will be meeting again from time to time to discuss the situation. We hope that we may hold a Zoom National Secretariat meeting later in the year. This use of the video-conferencing programme has also led to our Parish using it for Group Reunions and other group meetings – it has been one of the positives arising from the pandemic.

We have recently opened a conversation with the New Zealand National Lay Director and hope we may be able to work together for the benefit of the Cursillo movement.



**NEWS FROM HONG KONG:** Our brothers and sisters in Hong Kong are still planning for HK#3 - October 23-26 this year. Of course they cannot be certain that it will go ahead - A dozen Hong Kong Veterans are on Team. So far they have 8-10 strongly committed participants. They're aiming for 15 as that's the maximum rooms they can have. HK#3 is at the Retreat House on Cheung Chau Island that housed #HK1 with our Aussie contingent.

They too have held small group meetings by Zoom; and by the time you read this they will have had their first Ultreya on Saturday 18th July.

Reverend Will Newman advises that: (excerpt)

"Our churches were never completely locked down, but from the end of February to the end of May we could only have 4 people in church, so that's when we started Zooming and livestreaming. I have to say I really enjoyed it! Greeting people individually as they joined us, and again at the Peace, telling them who was in church, everyone greeting friends we couldn't meet in person at that time, was a great way to keep the church community together. Since the start of June churches have reopened again – with all safety measures in place, we even sing hymns through our masks – not impossible! And everyone's so happy to be back together.

In these uncertain times we turn to Christ, our rock, our hope and our joy! And we continue to proclaim the gospel.

Love and thanks and prayers to all our Aussie Cursillo friends. We wish some of you could join us in October! But if that is not possible, we know that your prayers will be with us".

Check out St John's Cathedral website: <https://www.stjohnscathedral.org.hk/Page.aspx?lang=1&id=317>



**NEW ZEALAND ANGLICAN CURSILLO** National Lay Director reports:

Kia ora Jim

I am incredibly grateful for such a comprehensive reply where you touched on so many points critical to the well-being of Cursillo. I totally agree that communication needs to be more openly reported and Cursillo events need to be more open. When people use the words "mysterious" and "secret society" we are clearly not doing a good enough job of communicating what we are about.

My very first Council meeting on Zoom early August I will report that we are in touch; I will share your email; and I will also continue to keep you informed of our challenges, successes, discussions. This meeting is largely so we can get to know each other in order to build community as there are many new members, and also to find out how Dioceses are responding to Covid-19 challenges.

Blessings to you and all Cursillistas from Aotearoa New Zealand.

Warm Pacific Greetings

Gail Spence



**NEWCASTLE CATHOLIC CURSILLO:**

We try to keep in touch with our brothers and sisters in Newcastle Catholic Cursillo – below is a short report from Rick McCosker:

- ✎ Both our National Encounter that we were to host here in Newcastle and our 50 year Anniversary Dinner have been postponed to October 2021.
- ✎ Our monthly Ultreyas have been cancelled from March to September (at this stage).
- ✎ We have the Catalina Centre booked for some form of Weekend in May 2021, depending on the COVID restrictions.
- ✎ Most of our Group Reunions have continued meeting via Zoom.
- ✎ Our National Secretariat is scheduled to meet via Zoom on 29 August when we'll hear how other Dioceses are going.

Sorry to hear your 30 Year celebrations have been postponed but that's the way of the world at the moment - and could be for some time!!

We're trying to stay connected as best we can under the circumstances but a little difficult as a fair number of our regular Cursillistas are in the "vulnerable" age group.

Good to keep in touch Jim - our prayers and best wishes to you all

*Rick McCosker*



*Jim Warland*  
National Lay Director



**DIRECTORY of DEANERIES,  
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and  
PARISH CONTACTS**



**IMPORTANT!**

Please notify  
Diocesan Lay Director's  
and



Editorial Committee if details change.

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# THE ENCOURAGER

the Magazine of the Cursillo Movement in the Diocese of Newcastle  
Published three times per year:

## 2020/21 EDITIONS AND DEADLINES:

SUMMER/DECEMBER - SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER, 2020

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WINTER/AUGUST - THURSDAY 1ST JULY, 2021



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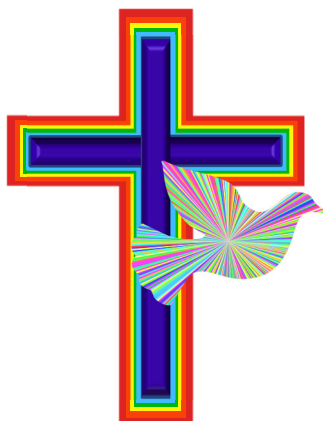
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- ≈ Resources
- ≈ Diary
- ≈ National events
- ≈ Contacts
- ≈ and much more.