

The Encourager



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SUMMER 2020



PEACE ON EARTH



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*Please pray for SECRETARIAT MEETING
1st Tuesday of each month @ All Saints-New Lambton
2nd February, 2nd March, 6th April, 4th May, 2021*



FROM OUR DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

FR STEVE NILAND

**RESPONSE TO WITNESS TALK
- DIOCESAN ULTREYA - 07 NOVEMBER 2020
Thanks Elizabeth.**

The Power of Prayer. I love that definition right at the start – PRAYER IS THE SOUL'S SINCERE DESIRE – UTTERED OR UNEXPRESSED.

Our prayer needs to be sincere – not simply rattled off in rote fashion but spoken as a sincere conversation WITH GOD. Prayer is a part of our relationship with GOD. It is something upon which JESUS placed much emphasis.

The apostle Paul urges us, in 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18 to:

'Rejoice always pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you'.

Crosswalk.com, an online Christian living magazine gives an explanation on its website that Praying without ceasing is:

Impossible, right? Maybe in the olden days, when every task directly affected your family's survival—of course they prayed, because if the crop died, they'd starve. If someone got sick, there was no medicine to help. Life was dangerous and fragile, and people weren't distracted by social media and cell phones. But today? Who could be expected to keep their mind on God at all times? Surely God wouldn't expect that of us, because He knows more than anyone how flawed we are, and how short our attention spans are.

Except that nowhere in the Bible is there an asterisk after that verse that says, "*unless you're really busy."

Here's the good news. Not only is it possible to pray without ceasing, but it's possible to do so without making any significant changes to your schedule or time commitments. It's all about shifting your thought process and turning everyday moments into prayer. Someone once suggested that it's like keeping the radio playing in the background. Keep that connection open and talk to God as you go through your day.

It's also important to be able to pray for others. Elizabeth told us that she has been praying for her sister and for husband.

In the first book of Samuel chapter 12:23 Samuel tells us:

*'Moreover as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you; and I will instruct you in the good and the right way.'*³

Each day I try and use a book called Morning and Evening Devotions by Pastor David Jeremiah – an American pastor and theologian. A couple of days ago under the heading of "Straight Lines" it said: "Do you know someone who is heading the wrong way – perhaps struggling with an overwhelming problem or temptation? Then – PRAY – earnestly PRAY for that person".

I am praying for a person who told me that they were no longer a Christian – that they couldn't believe in and worship a GOD who allows (and I quote)

*"such tragedy, pain and suffering in the world
but expects nothing but praise and exultation."*

We may be rejected by others who may also be rejecting GOD – but these are helpless against our prayers. In Colossians 4:12 we meet a man who gets a special commendation for his intercessory prayers in the Bible – ¹² Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ Jesus, greets you. He is always wrestling in his prayers on your behalf, so that you may stand mature and fully assured in everything that God wills.

Oswald Chambers, an early twentieth century Scottish Baptist evangelist and teacher, said: "By intercessory prayer we can hold off Satan from other lives and give the Holy Ghost a chance with them. No wonder JESUS put such tremendous emphasis on prayer!"

Earlier we said that prayer is all about shifting our thought process and turning everyday moments into prayer. And that is what our opening song spoke about. Satan knows the effectiveness of prayer and will try anything he can to interfere with us praying. Usually in a subtle way but interfering none the less. Our Cursillo experience has helped us to realise that prayer is not always a bunch of formally written words in a prayer book. Prayer is personal as well as corporate. Prayer needs to be sincere, heart-felt and authentic. It enhances our relationship with GOD, transforms our lives and helps us grow closer to Him. Many people have written many books on and about prayer – I'm going to mention only two: Tim Keller–American Pastor and Author–who has written "Prayer – Experiencing Awe and Intimacy With GOD" and Mike Bickle–director of the International House of Prayer of Kansas City–who has written "Growing in Prayer – A Real Life Guide to Talking With GOD". Both books offer insights into prayer and hints on how we can improve our prayer life and our relationship with GOD.

Thank you, Elizabeth for sharing with us about your experiences in prayer. Getting the weight off the hips, however, takes seriously earnest prayer! Thank you also for the two wonderful hymns you chose to accompany your talk.

May GOD continue to bless you in your walk with JESUS.

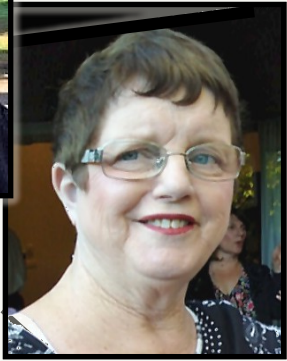
De Colores

Fr Steve

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 - Leanne Doyle
- Day 3 National Treasurer - Marea Niland
- Day 4 National Episcopal Advisor - Bishop Ian Palmer
- Day 5 National Spiritual Advisor - Reverend Jane Lamont
- 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/Reverend Gary Atherton
- Day 11 Diocesan Secretary - Rosemary Allen
- Day 12 Diocesan Treasurer - Colleen Read
- Day 13 Fourth Day Applications/Promotion – Liz O'Sullivan
- 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 - Geoff Wooden
- Day 18 'The Encourager' Editorial Team
- Day 19 Palanca Co-ordinator - Lynn Dunningcliff
- 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 TBA
- 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 NICOLLE

REPORT FOR 2020



As we commence this report we reflect on the year that was or was not. One we had not expected nor planned for. How quickly our lives and ministries had to adjust to all the changes and challenges we had to encounter on a daily basis as the pandemic took hold.

What was the norm was no more and we had to adjust to a whole new way of being church and Cursillo. Zoom became the communication tool to keep us connected. And we give thanks to God for those with the expertise who assisted with this technology.

Secretariat met via Zoom during the year continuing the governance of Diocesan Cursillo. Proposed dates and activities for 2021 were developed and all business that presented dealt with.

With the pandemic taking it's hold, restrictions increasing on a daily basis, and for the safety of all, Secretariat moved to cancel all Cursillo activities for the year. With the disappointment due to cancellations of the weekends, we thank Lorraine and David for their willingness to serve as Lay Leaders for the 2021 Cursillo. Please continue to pray for them as they prepare for their respective weekends at Catalina.

The 30 year Celebrations also had to be cancelled. We are hoping to recognise this milestone in some way in the future when we can all gather safely in numbers.

PRAYER COVER

Prayer is the foundation of our ministry. We thank Fr. Chris Bullock for his pastoral co-ordination of this ministry. We thank you all for your deep and continued prayer support at all times.

FINANCES CONTRIBUTIONS AND BANK ACCOUNTS

We thank Colleen for her expertise in keeping our finances in order. As we are unable to meet together for the Diocesan Ultreya where we would normally pay our Contributions, Colleen has outlined in the Summer Encourager how you can forward your Contribution to her. With the ever increasing cost of printing, postage and subsidies of Cursillo weekends your financial support is vital. You might like to consider a donation as well to support this ministry. 6

ULTREYAS

Dates for 2021 are being finalised and will be published in the Encourager. These will take place following the COVID Restrictions that are in place at the time. We will need to work within the Diocesan Guidelines as we meet.

CURSILLO ROLL

Thank you to all who work very hard at keeping the roll up to date. This is not an easy task and relies on each of us to inform Executive when there are changes to be made.

WEBSITE

Our thanks to Jim for his wonderful commitment keeping the Website up to date. All Cursillo information can be found on the Website.

THE ENCOURAGER

We are now up to issue #107, since issue #1 in 1990.

We are grateful to all who contribute articles, who are responsible for editing, printing and posting our wonderful magazine that keeps us informed. Please keep your articles coming so we can all share in your activities.

The address for where your contributions can be sent are on the Encourager cover. To save on expenses as like last year the Bookmarks will be printed in the Encourager. Bookmarks will also be on the Website for you to download.

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT MEETINGS

These were held by Zoom this year. It was with great regret that Newcastle could not host the National Meeting here in June to coincide with our 30 year Celebrations.

PROJECTIONS FOR 2021.



Men's Weekend - Planning is underway to have this vital outreach to men realised. More information in separate article in this issue.



Women Celebrating Our Faith - Will be taking on a whole new format in 2021. Information early next year.

As we look forward to 2021 and what that will look like and bring, we do so with the assurance of God's presence with us. As Peter writes that we have to be good stewards of the manifold grace of God and to grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

May we all grow in love, grace and knowledge as we serve our God through Cursillo in 2021.

Noelene and *Bill*

MEN'S WEEKEND, THE FUTURE

PLANNING COMMITTEE NEEDED

The Men's weekend has run under the "banner" of the Newcastle Diocese Anglican Cursillo Movement, and originally was an annual event, underpinned with the Cursillo motto, of "Bringing a Friend Gently to Christ".

This wonderful Men's ministry, started under the "leadership" of Noel Herbert and many intrepid Cursillistas, with the first Beer, Bible and Football (B.B.F) weekend held at Kendall Grange, Morisset on 14th - 16th August, 1998.

The flier taken from the winter Encourager #28, read as follows:-

BEER, BIBLE AND FOOTBALL WEEKEND

Come along and enjoy a weekend of fellowship, prayer and football.

Learn how we can enjoy a beer or whatever in good company, and listen to or watch our favourite sport and take time to know the Bible.

We can read the Bible ——— without it making us less of a man.

We can enjoy a beer ——— without it making us less of a Christian.

We can watch or play football ——— without it making us less of a man.

Come and hear how doing things responsibly we can witness our faith to others.

Guest speakers—good accommodation—all meals supplied—reasonable cost.

Person's over 18 welcome.

Well most of us are a lot older now, and the prospect of kicking a football is a distant memory, and has been replaced with less painful endeavours like golf, however, the philosophy of the event hasn't changed. It has always been Christ centred, in a Community of men and ran nearly every year until 2020.

Over the years venues varied from Kendall Grange, Morpeth, Tocal, Tahlee and finally All Saints Church, New Lambton, however the great fellowship, food and fun has always been there as Christian men and friends have gathered together.

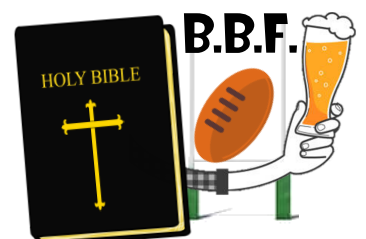
Secretariat is calling for Cursillistas who are willing to keep this important ministry of Apostolic Action in our environment, (the 3rd leg of our Cursillo tripod), growing in our Diocese, as we reach out to men in our communities.

We need to start planning now for the future. If you are interested in being on a planning/steering group, to get things up and running again, please contact me.

Decolores and Ultreya!

Bill Nicolle, Co L.D

Mb 0478 626 650 or email:- sticks@aapt.net.au



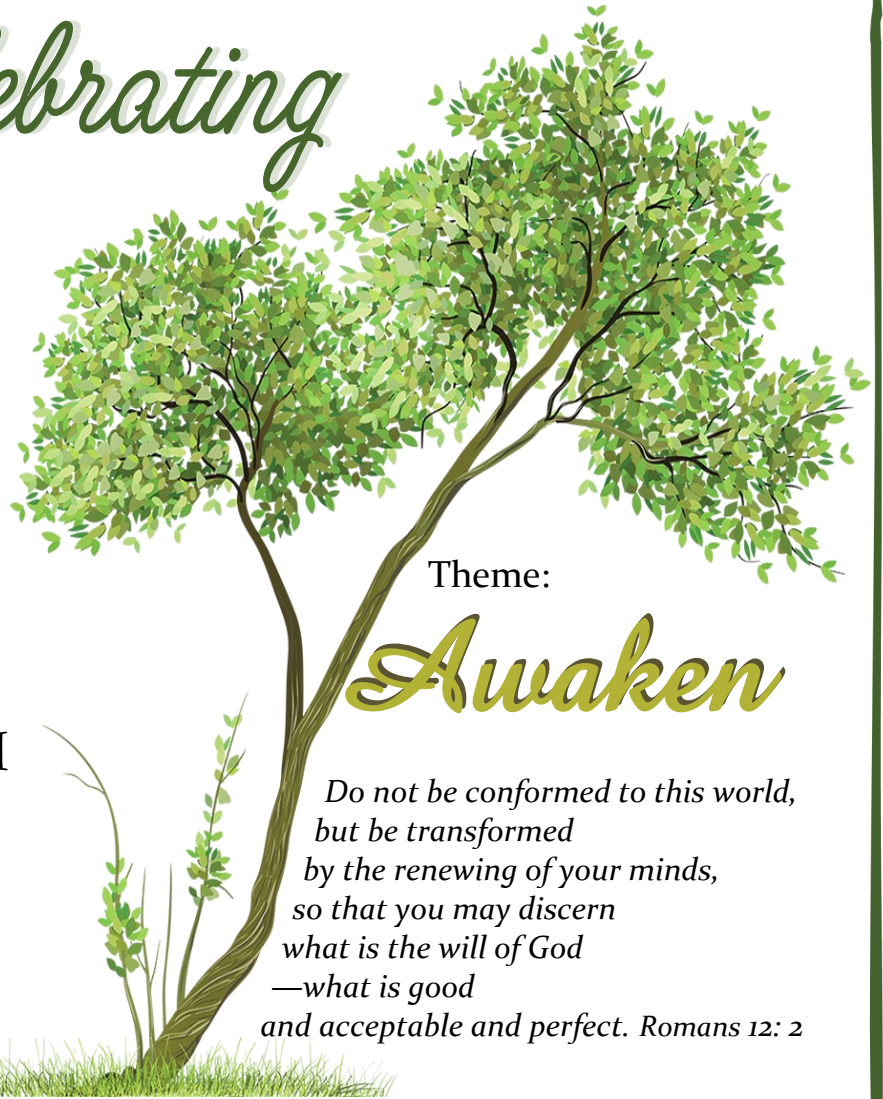
Women Celebrating our Faith

15th May 2021

@10.00am

ALL SAINTS
ANGLICAN CHURCH

Corner Saint James Road
and Regent Streets,
New Lambton



Theme:

Awaken

*Do not be conformed to this world,
but be transformed
by the renewing of your minds,
so that you may discern
what is the will of God
—what is good
and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12: 2*

Guest Speaker: Sharon Kirk

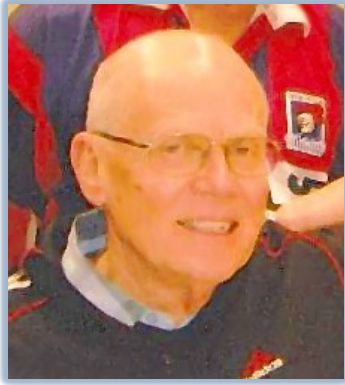


If you would like to pre register for this wonderful day of sharing your faith and fellowship please email:
theeditorcursilloencourager@hotmail.com
and we will contact you early in the new year with a brochure and registration form.

WCOF Committee.



REMEMBERING FAITHFUL CURSTILLISTAS



Michael Thompson

Michael passed away on Sunday 4th October, his Memorial service was held @ All Saints Anglican, Morisset.

Michael, was a person a wonderful, humble and empathetic man, who brought a prayerful and wise gift to Cursillo, to our Parish of Southlakes and of course the Church Community throughout this Diocese.

Michael did his Cursillo in Newcastle on Men's 33, served on teams of M35, and M44 as Proctor, and was on Secretariat as Prayer Chain Coordinator.

In 2009 Michael led M40 @ Quorrobolong, the theme he chose "*your word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path*", reflected his life among us for all of us that worshipped and fellowshiped with him.

I served on 3 Cursillo's with Michael, the last on Men's 44, and have great memories of Michael's lovely sense of humour, and his understanding, appreciation and willingness to be part of community in Church in Christ

We give thanks for Michael, "*a Gentle and Faithful Servant of Jesus*" and the wonderful memories his service to Christ has given to this Diocese and it's people.

Bill, Co L.D



Kate Dornan

It is with great sadness that we record of the death of our Sister in Christ Kate Dornan.

Kate was a great supporter and worker for Cursillo in the Diocese over many years. Kate made her Cursillo on Women's 11a, was Lay Leader of Women's 26 and a Team Member on W.17 ,33, 37, 39 and 44.

Kate used her God given gifts in many ways for the Cursillo Ministry serving as Secretary from 1995,1996 and 1997.

Kate was a Godly Lady serving her Lord where ever she was able. Giving leadership, encouragement and support where and when needed.

Her deep faith in her Lord was evident for all to see and was a source of strength and comfort to her as she battled her illness.

The world was a better place with Kate in it. May she now rest in peace with her Loving Saviour.

Our love and prayers go to Selwyn and Kate's Family.

Noelene Co L.D 10



Garry Godfrey Roth

It is with great sadness that I advise of the passing of our friend Garry Roth on Thursday 30th October 2020, after a long illness. Strong to the end, Garry's faith never wavered. He knew he was being prayed for by so many and that comforted him.

Garry was a good and faithful servant, giving of his time and the Kairos and Cursillo movements, leading a Kairos team and in 2009 he led Men's 39 Cursillo weekend, at Bethshan, Wyee. His theme for that weekend was "*They will soar on eagle's wings*", and his song was "*The power of your love*".

He was also a team member for M27, M29, M42, M43 and M48, having made his Cursillo on Men's 20 Newcastle, 1997. He used his talents as a Muso and IT on several of those weekends.

At his parish, St John's Raymond Terrace, he was responsible for gathering other musicians and singers together and so the band "Noah's Wife" was formed. The band played regularly at Sunday Mass Services, Christmas Carols, Cursillo Diocesan Ultreyas, including All Saints Cathedral in Newcastle, which he got a real buzz out of.

Garry will be missed by his family and many friends but will be remembered lovingly as a loving husband, father, grandfather, brother and a good friend to many.

Lord, as Gary comes to you, may you hold him close and let Your love surround him and as you bring him near and draw him to your side, may he rise up like the eagle and soar with You as Your Spirit leads him on in the Power of Your love. Rest in peace my friend.

Michael Sinclair

*They will soar like eagles;
they will run
and not grow weary,
they will walk
and be faint.*

Isaiah 40: 31b NIV



SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2020



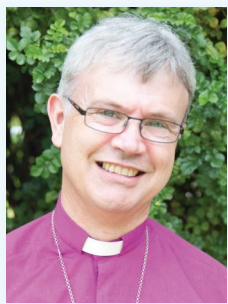
Despite the Covid 19 restrictions, the change of venue for 2020 and some last minute "mix-ups", our very first zoomed Grand Ultreya in the Diocese was held.

The theme "God gives us a Future", certainly came to fruition with a great celebration.

Brian Taylor, led the Ultreya and along with your Secretariat, their wives and husbands, provided the 'in house' participation, whilst Cursillistas from around the Dioceses and afar watched from home. The length of the Ultreya



was time constrained, due to the risk of losing connection with our telecommunication, however all the important elements of the Ultreya, prayer, praise, witness speaker, group reunion and of course song were had.



Bishop Peter's attended via zoom, and once again we are so grateful for his continued encouragement and support of the Cursillo movement in the Newcastle Diocese.

Bishop Peter decommissioned Secretariat members, Steve and Lyne Parsons, who completed their three years on Secretariat, and commissioned Liz O'Sullivan (Applications), Geoff Wooden (Diocesan Proctor) and Reverend Gary Atherton (Spiritual Advisor).



Bishop Peter's encouraging and challenging message to us, was based on our Cursillo motto of *"make a friend, be a friend, bring that friend gently to Christ"*. Our call to be Christ bearers to our environments through invitation which is gentle, yet daring, calling us to use those many opportunities we come across in our daily lives, of asking those we befriend to "come and see".



Elizabeth Cooper, W47, was our Witness Speaker. For her witness talk, Elizabeth chose as her first song MP 567 'Prayer is the Souls Sincere Desire' Elizabeth then went on to share with us how as we continue our life's journey the ever importance the of our daily prayer life. The response (page 3) to Elizabeth's talk was given by Fr Steve Niland, our Diocesan Spiritual Adviser, and Rector of St John's Church.

We then broke in groups both in the room, and virtually, via the zoom, for sharing our theme:

- ✝ Identifying the Vision.
- ✝ Exploring the Vision.
- ✝ Living the Vision.



Brian then brought us all back together for our closing prayers, to end a memorable and enthusiastic Diocesan Ultreya!

A special thanks to Brian for his leadership, our gifted musician Rosemary Allen, the hastily assembled vocal ensemble, Kim and Peter for photos and Power Point, Elizabeth for her wonderful witness of encouragement to us, Fr Steve and Marea for their hospitality and behind scenes organisation, and to all who attended, be in person, or via zoom, that make us a Christian Community in Action for Christ in our own environments.



Decolores and Ultreya!

Noelene and Bill



Fr Steve Niland
Zooming
in



Continued page 14 →



Bill Nicolle, Fr Chris Bullock
and Jim Warland



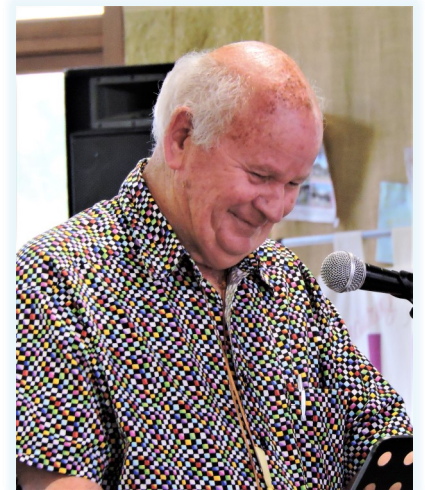
Marea Niland,
Ken and Elizabeth Cooper



Brian Taylor
and Barbara Warland



Noelene Lentfer



Bill Nicolle

Fr Steve Niland
responding to
Elizabeth's witness



Zooming
in



Noelene Lentfer
and Liz O'Sullivan



Proposed 2021

Dates



Lambton/Wallsend Ultreya	6pm - 19 th March
MICA Ultreya	2pm - 6 th May
Women Celebrating our Faith	10am - 15 th May
Men's Weekend	May TBA
New Lambton Ultreya	6pm - 16 th July
Toronto Ultreya	2pm - 25 th July
Women's 49 Lorraine Phillips	12 th - 15 th August Catalina
Men's 49 TBA	26 th - 29 th August Catalina
Training Days 1 st	8 th May
	2 nd 29 th May
	3 rd 12 th June
	4 th 26 th June
	5 th 10 th July
	6 th 24 th July
Welcome Day M/W 49	11 th September
Southlakes Ultreya	2pm - 26 th September
Diocesan Ultreya	6 th November



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www.cursillonewcastle.org.au



Make a friend,
Be a friend,
Bring a friend to Christ.

A SPECIAL PRAYER FOR DAILY USE

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

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



DATES FOR 2021

ENCOURAGER DEADLINES

1st March - 1st July - 1st November

WOMEN CELEBRATING OUR FAITH

15th May @ New Lambton

Men's Weekend - May

Date and Venue TBA

MW49 TEAMS COMMISSIONING

8th May @ Raymond Terrace

NATIONAL SECRETARIAT MEETING

10th, 11th, 12th September

@ Byrne Centre, Highfields. Queensland

W49 CURSILLO

Lorraine Phillips 12th-15th August @ Catalina

M49 CURSILLO

26th - 29th August @ Catalina

MW49 WELCOME DAY

18th September @ Raymond Terrace

DIOCESAN ULTREYA

6th November @ Christchurch Cathedral

MISTAKEN IDENTITY AND UNEXPECTED CONNECTIONS.

A recent case of mistaken identity on my part when I saw the name of the witness speaker for our Diocesan Ultreya on the draft program led to a response from the recipient of my inquiry that I have been encouraged to share with you, having emailed her to ask for her two chosen song choices and saying how delighted I was that we would be able to catch up. I must say I was mystified as to how she would be out here at this time of no travel, given that she now lives in the UK but I proceeded anyway. This was her reply and I quote:

"Hi Rosemary – am I entitled to expenses!!!!

This would be wonderful, and oh that it was possible but sadly you must have the wrong Liz. I've just checked you out and see that you are indeed involved with Newcastle Diocese whereas I'm with Chichester Diocese Cursillo and Chichester is definitely in the UK.

James and I have much to be grateful to Newcastle Cursillo for- we were on the 2013 weekend ,went kicking and screaming to it not really thinking that it would be our cup of tea but came home fired up and enthusiastic to bring it back to, and work with, the other Cursillistas in Cessnock parish. When we returned to the UK in 2015 we discovered the movement here on our doorstep, something few people seem to know about. We have been

on team twice now, James is one of the SA's on Secretariat and low and behold I was asked to lead the Weekend which was to have taken place in April, then postponed, and now Covid has stripped us of the joy. Whether or not we will be able to hold Chichester#32 next April remains to be seen. There are no Ultreyas for the time being.

Am I right in thinking that you are the Rosemary with whom I shared that weekend seven years ago?"

Indeed she is correct, W43, Table of Naomi. Many of you in the Cessnock, Kurri Kurri area will still remember James and Liz Cooper. For me it has been delightful to reconnect with Liz, a truly lovely lady, exchanging snippets of what is going on here and finding out about her life and parish work in the UK.

She speaks of Cursillo giving them another arm in their worship life and notes the many friends made through attending Ultreyas. In one of her emails she says "This little exchange has been a great joy, one little hiccup on your part has taken me back to a very happy time... it feels like hands in faith across the world."

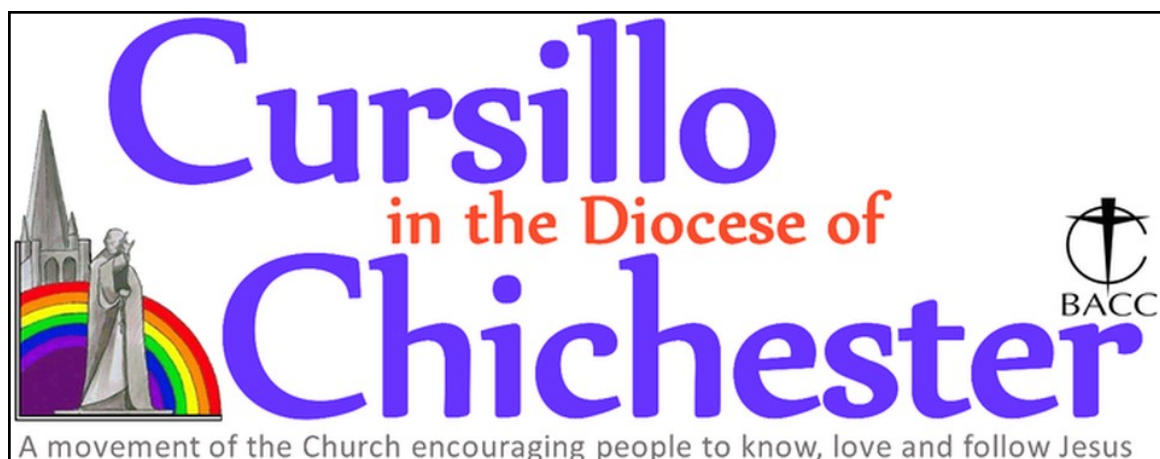
An extra blessing –Liz has a Brazilian step grandson who was working in a pub in Sydney, about to start a two year course when lockdown happened. Moved from the pub into a hostel which then closed down, invited and given authority to travel to Brisbane but then turned back by airport police, desperate and destitute. She put out a plea to Aussie friends and lo and behold a wonderful family from Kurri Kurri took him in. A win- win situation with new friendships made.

She asks to pass on their love and prayers to all who remember them and their gratitude for embracing them during their time in OZ. "And let them know that their legacy was to bring that sense of faithful joy to a different group of Cursillistas thousands of miles away. God moves in mysterious ways.....!"

Lesson- Be assured that Cursillo maintains its distinctive relevance and we can never really begin to imagine the extent of its influence.

De colores

Rosemary Allen



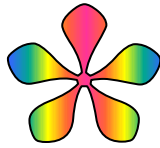
**DIRECTORY of DEANERIES,
DEANERY CONTACTS
and
PARISH CONTACTS**



IMPORTANT!

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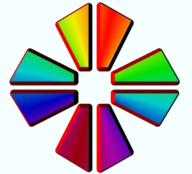
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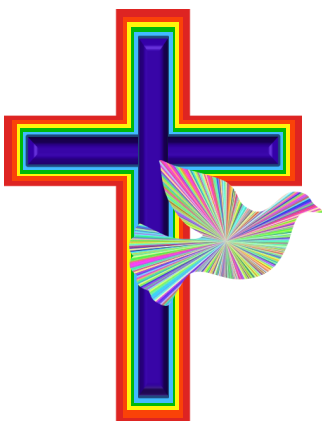
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