

The Encourager

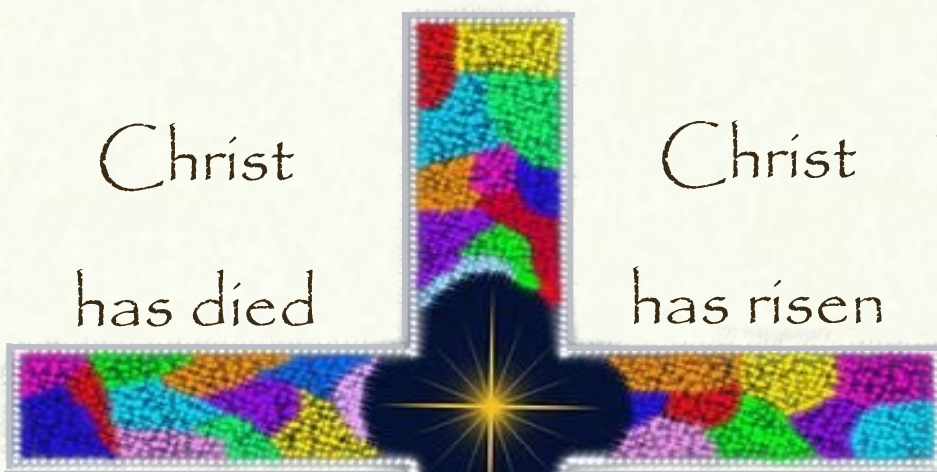


Print Post 100003354 April, 2021 - Number 108 Magazine of the Newcastle Cursillo Movement

AUTUMN
2021

Christ
has died

Christ
has risen



Christ
will come
again

1 Corinthians 15: 20-26



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*Please pray for SECRETARIAT MEETING
1st Tuesday of each month @ All Saints-New Lambton
4th May, 1st June, 6th July, 3rd August, 2021*



FROM OUR DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

FR STEVE NILAND

FASTING, FORTY DAYS AND FORGIVENESS

In Genesis 3 the first sin is recorded and also the subsequent judgement by GOD. As the human capacity for sin is not reduced in any way, GOD determines to wipe out humanity from His creation. Noah is instructed to build an ark to survive the ensuing flood. GOD intends to begin again with Noah and make a new covenant with him – to never again destroy the earth by flood. Covenants always have signs; and, in this case, GOD commits Himself to the sign of the rainbow.

Noah and his family were saved by water – symbolising baptism as a symbol of GOD's grace. It saves us now and acts as a sign of GOD's promise of ultimate salvation. The risen CHRIST, sitting at the right hand of GOD, is ample reassurance – better even than a rainbow in the sky.

After 40 days of fasting and prayer in the desert, JESUS confronted temptations to deny His mission and emerged with a much clearer commitment to His mission.

In the Bible, the number 40 is used to represent a time of preparation and cleansing. It takes 40 days for GOD to cleanse the earth of evil in the story of Noah's ark. The Israelites wander in the desert for 40 years before they are ready to truly embrace their identity as GOD's chosen people. JESUS fasts and prays for 40 days in the desert so that He might be fully prepared for His ministry and for doing the will of His Father.

During those 40 days JESUS who is fully divine, was tempted by the devil. Being also fully human, Church teaching declares that JESUS was "like us in all things except sin." Temptation doesn't become sin until we give in to it. JESUS never did. When we struggle to do what is right in the face of powerful temptation to do wrong, we can take comfort in knowing that JESUS knows exactly what the experience is like. Lent is a time for us to recognise that we can turn away from sin and resist temptations.

JESUS' mission as He comes out of the desert calls people to repent because GOD the Father is about to transform the universe. The Kingdom of GOD is all of creation after it has been cleansed by GOD of evil and sin. All those who want to be a part of this joyous new world must allow the,

Spirit that led JESUS into the desert to enter into their hearts. It will be challenging – but just think how much more joyful and stronger we will be spiritually on Easter morning as we celebrate that our LORD is risen.

English artist, Stanley Spencer, painted a picture of JESUS sitting on the desert sands with a small but deadly scorpion – suggesting, perhaps, that the really dangerous beasts are those small ones that can slither insidiously into our lives – the persistent sins and small infidelities that, almost unnoticed, can inject a paralysing venom into our discipleship.

JESUS comes out from His wilderness experience strengthened for His mission. On Ash Wednesday, we were signed as baptised disciples of the tempted One and called to Lenten mindfulness of the struggle between sin and grace.

The desert sand is not under our feet but in our hearts. Its grit is the daily irritations and indefinable loneliness we often feel – like an oyster producing a pearl. Lent heightens our awareness of the importance of uncluttered spiritual and physical space where we can recognise our pain, where we can discover the beauty of GOD and our sisters and brothers under the surface sands of our busy lives – and – where we can allow our ears to be unclogged by closer listening to the Word of GOD. What spiritual baggage do we need to discard in our trek towards Easter? What will be our pearl of great price as we journey towards the cross – which as the great evangelist Billy Graham always said is at the centre of our faith?

May GOD bless you this Easter.

De Colores

Fr Steve

WOMEN AND MEN'S 49 TEAM COMMISSIONING

8th May 2021

@ 9.30am

St Johns Anglican Church

Raymond Terrace

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 Brian Taylor
- 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



Dear Friends in Christ.

As we begin this year 2021, we do so with the hope that our Lord promises, with joy in being able to meet together again as we commence our activities with the Covid 19 restrictions, and with encouragement for each other as we put the challenges and disappointments of 2020 behind us, and give thanks to God for the spirit of perseverance during what was unusual times.

It is wonderful to see parishes hosting Ultreyas again and how imaginative they have been, to do this in a Covid safe environment. It is so important that we come together as God's children to share in fellowship, praise and prayer.

The proposed Cursillo Weekends for Men and Women's 49 are going ahead at Catalina. Much prayer, thought and preparation has gone into the organizing of these weekends so Covid restrictions are followed. Please uphold Lorraine and Brian, Lay Directors for the weekend and their teams as they navigate the new norms required.

In January, your Secretariat convened a special meeting, to discuss possible reasons for the ever decreasing number of guests attending a Cursillo weekend and consider some solutions to these problem.

Two major factors were identified: affordability and time constraints on working people.

Discussion was had on the possibility of running a condensed weekend for Men and Women's 49 this year. Diocese Bunbury, W.A and other denominations have already conducted a condensed weekend with success. After thoughtful and prayerful discussion it was decided not to pursue that avenue for 2021.

Affordability: the matter of ever increasing costs of a weekend and the financial constraints this may present to prospective guests was discussed at length.

The following outcomes were agreed to:

- To step out in faith, putting our trust in our Lord.
- That Guests (Candidates) on the weekend, not to be charged.
- Invite sponsors and Parish Cursillistas to prayerfully and financially support this initiative by jointly or personally contributing to the costs.

- The motion was carried unanimously.
- Secretariat has always made up any shortfall on weekend costs, and this will always continue.

Please consider and prayerfully discuss these initiatives at your Ultreyas, Group Reunions and in your parish.

The Commissioning of Men's and Women's 49, will be held on the 8th of May @ St John's Raymond Terrace - 9.30am.

We encourage you to come along and support Lorraine and Brian and their teams as they commence that wonderful journey of forming Christ's Community over the coming months.

Change of date for Welcome Day of Men and Women's 49 will now be 18th September.

A letter from Reverend Jane Lamont, National Spiritual Advisor – Cursillo Australia, re promoting Cursillo in our Parishes has been received. Please ask your Parish Contact for a copy if you have not received one.

We do hope that you have received your Apostolic Action Diary beautifully produced by Dorothy Harman. A great tool for our prayer life.

Please continue to uphold in your prayers our brothers and sisters in Hong Kong Cursillo as they grapple with Covid pandemic.

A Conference Day for Women Celebrating our Faith has been organised for 15th May 2021. Details with Registration Form are enclosed. Cursillo has combined with Mothers Union and Anglican Women to make this event inclusive to all women in the Diocese. The Guest Speaker Mrs Sharon Kirk is an inspiring speaker, there are other surprises in the program to enjoy. This Conference has been organized following Covid Safe Regulations. Hope to see you there.

There is much information in the Encourager. Please enjoy. We encourage you share with others the work of the Cursillo movement.

Please give thanks for the last 30years of Cursillo in this Diocese and pray for the continuation of this ministry.

There is something special about praising God together with His people, and we should take every opportunity we can to do so.

“CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU”

In Christ

Noelene and Bill

MEET OUR NEW DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL ADVISER AND

REVEREND GARY AHERTON



Greetings my brothers and sisters in Christ, my name is Fr. Gary Atherton and I was ordained by Bishop Alfred Holland in 1987 in the Newcastle Diocese and made my Cursillo at Men's 11 in Newcastle in 1993.

After serving in several parishes in the Newcastle Diocese, I went on to continue my ministry in the Dioceses of Grafton, Southern Queensland and Wangaratta before returning to Newcastle.

I now serve as the Rector of the Parish of Cardiff Boolaroo, and my wife Karen and I get to see our eldest son David and his daughter Aria on a regular basis. We have two younger sons Matthew and Christopher living with us at home and a younger daughter Jessica living in Brisbane.

I have been the Spiritual Director for several Cursillos, as well as the Diocesan Spiritual Director for the Northern region of the Diocese of Grafton. So, I will enjoy the opportunities I will be given to contribute to the Newcastle Cursillo movement in my new role as the Diocesan Spiritual Adviser, and I look forward to catching up with old friends, and making some new ones, as we journey together in love and fellowship for God and his kingdom.

Fr Gary

4TH DAY/APPLICATIONS/PROMOTION

LIZ O'SULLIVAN



I am excited to be a new member of the Cursillo Secretariat. I am responsible for Cursillo Application.

I currently worship at All Saints ANew at New Lambton. Prior to that I was a long time parishioner of The Church of the Transfiguration at Windale.

I have been involved in many different areas of Church life including Parish Council, Synod rep, Children's Ministry, Bible Studies, Servant Community, Mothers Union and to name a few.

I am a recently retired Registered Nurse and spent the majority of my career working in the field of Aboriginal Health. John and I have been blessed with 2 children (adults) 1 son and 1 daughter and 4 active young grandchildren. I am looking forward to serving and growing in faith.

De Colores *Liz O'Sullivan* - W29/Table of Elizabeth.

30 YEARS OF CURSILLO

June 2020 we were to celebrate a great milestone of 30 years of Cursillo in the Newcastle Diocese, due to Covid19 restrictions we were denied the privilege to go ahead with our plans to celebrate. It was to be a great celebration of what a wonderful blessing Cursillo has meant to us.

The Cursillo Movement is and has been a great asset to the Diocese and for all who have attended a 3 day weekend, Cursillo is strong and growing even after 30 years.

It is real and meaningful and still changing the lives and destiny of many people. We have continuing growth because the method of Cursillo has awakened the personal ability of our people, the exposure of hidden talent and above all a personal relationship with our Lord and Saviour. Your continued prayers would be appreciated for the continual life of our beloved Cursillo Movement in our Diocese.

For two years the planning committee starting putting together ideas for a wonderful celebration part of that was to select a Theme, Scripture, Prayer and a Song, all of which are included as a bookmark in this issue.

Feel free to use and enjoy within Ultreya and services especially the theme song.

I give thanks to God for the committee of the 30th anniversary celebration, for their tireless effort and commitment to the 30 year celebration of Cursillo in the Diocese of Newcastle.

De Colores *Lyn Carter*



Theme Song

His Spirit leads us on.

Tune:

'Mine eyes have seen the glory'

Our eyes are fixed on Jesus
he will guide us to his will.
What we can't see he will teach us
as his purpose we'll fulfil,
His eternal vision leads us on the
mission he has still,
His Spirit leads us on.

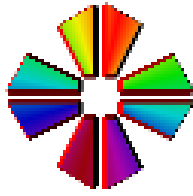
***Eyes to see beyond the present,
hearts afire to His vision,
restoration into new life,
His spirit leads us on.***

With prayer we'll seek the vision
that our Lord will want us start,
co-workers for his kingdom
he will lead us on the path,
With faith we'll travel forward
as His blessing He'll impart,
His Spirit leads us on.

Refrain

With new energy and wisdom
a new future He'll provide
With our eyes fixed on our Saviour
and his Spirit as our guide
With prayer and faith and purpose
He'll be ever at our side,
His Spirit leads us on

Refrain



**Diocese of Newcastle Anglican
Cursillo® Movement**

Theme



VISION

His plan - our mission

Theme Prayer

Spirit of our Creator God
we thank you Lord for your gift
of Cursillo and for your past
blessings upon us; give us a 20/20
vision of your plans for us:
A mission to: restore lives,
restore lives, kindle hearts,
enlighten minds fill your Church.
Awake us into new vitality;
arouse us with new energy;
enthuse us with new conviction
to be co-workers for your kingdom
May we move forward in
faith and prayer
with our eyes focussed solely on
you our great God, Father, Son
and Holy Spirit so that your
vision may be our vision
now and forever. Amen.

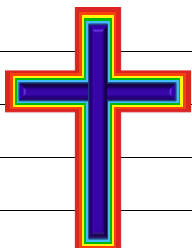
Theme Scripture

*“So we fix our eyes
not on what is seen,
But on what is unseen,
since what is seen is temporary,
but what is unseen is eternal.”*

2 Corinthians 4:18 NIV

Proposed Dates for 2021



Kincumber	17th April	Time to be advised
MICA Ultreya	1 st May - 2pm	
Women Celebrating our Faith	15 th - May 10am	
Merewether/ Cathedral/ Cooks Hill Ultreya	18 th June - 6.00pm	
Woy Woy	19 th June - 1pm 12 midday Lunch	
New Lambton Ultreya	16 th July - 6pm	
Toronto Ultreya	25 th July - 2pm	
Women's 49 Lorraine Phillips	12 th - 15 th August Catalina	
Men's 49 Brian Taylor	26 th - 29 th August Catalina	
Training Day	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	18 th September	
Southlakes Ultreya	2pm - 26 th September	
Diocesan Ultreya	6 th November	

PROPOSED SERVANT COMMUNITY DUTIES

- Women's Weekend 12th-15th August at Catalina
Mananita: Lake Macquarie
Clausura: Maitland/Upper Hunter
Palanca and Welcoming (Thursday): Maitland/
Upper Hunter
- Men's Weekend 26th-29th August at Catalina
Mananita: Central Coast
Clausura: Paterson/Manning
Palanca and Welcoming (Thursday): Maitland/
Upper Hunter

✂ Welcome Day for M/W49
- Saturday 18th September: Newcastle

VALE - BART BYRNE

Bart, passed away on Friday 4th December, and his Funeral Service was held at @ All Saints Anglican, Belmont.

Bart attended the very first Cursillo held in our Diocese, Newcastle Men's 1, in July 1990. Over the following years, Bart served on the following teams of Men's 4, 7, 8, 13, 15 & 24, and in 1993 at Morpeth led Men's 10.

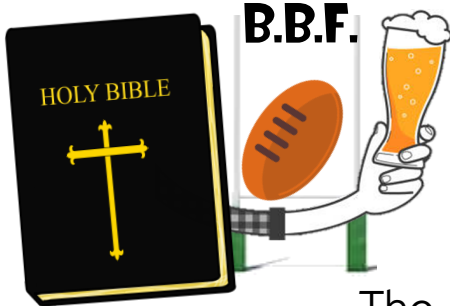
Both Bart and Leslie were longstanding members of the Lake Macquarie Servant Community, and led one of the Continuing the Journey weekends.

Bart was a humble and empathetic man, who brought many gifts to our Diocese through his involvement in Cursillo, and the wider Church Community throughout this Diocese.

We all give thanks to God, with joy, for Bart's beautiful singing voice, I will remember his singing a solo "This is a day of new beginnings" on Men's 13. That song, beautifully sung, to me has remained, one of the many treasured memories of the Cursillo movement.

We give thanks for Bart, "*a Gentle and Faithful Servant of Jesus*" and the wonderful memories of his service to Christ, given to this Diocese and its people.

Bill, Co L.D



MEN'S WEEKEND, THE FUTURE.

(UPDATE #2)

PLANNING COMMITTEE NEEDED.

The Men's weekend will possibly run in late 2021. 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.

De Colores and Ultreya!

Bill Nicole, Co L.D (Mb 0478 626 650 or email:- sticks@aapt.net.au)

Women Celebrating our Faith

15th May 2021

@10.00am

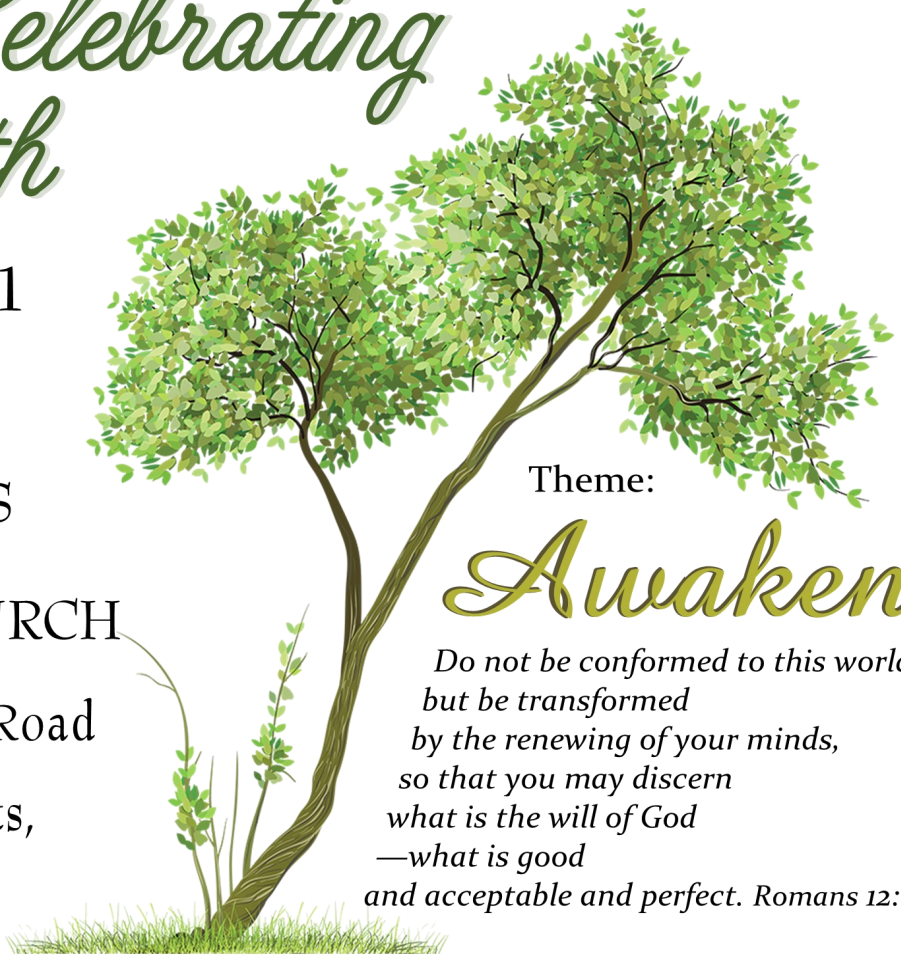
ALL SAINTS

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

A: Acknowledging God's will for our lives.

W: Willingness for Transformation

A: Action to take in Transformation

K: Knowledge for Growth in Transformation.

E: Engagement in the Transformation

N: Newness as a Transformed People.

REGISTRATION FORM

Women Celebrating our Faith

Name: _____

Parish: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Cost: \$30.00 - includes Morning Tea, Lunch and Conference costs.

(Covid Safe requirements: All food will be individually packed in servings)

Special dietary requirements _____

Payment: Direct Deposit - BSB 705 077, Account Number 00041127

Reference: Your name

Registrations Forms and Cheques please send to:

Liz O'Sullivan
21 Third Street
Adamstown 2283

Email: liz266@gmail.com

Registration Form to be returned to;
Liz O'Sullivan and
payments made by 4th May. 2021.

Thank you



FOR YOUR DAILY PRAYERS

MEN AND WOMEN'S 49 CURSILLO TEAMS

THEME:
**“IN CHRIST ALONE
 MY HOPE IS FOUND”**

THEME:
“I AM CARRIED”
BIBLE VERSE: ISAIAH 63:9



Brian Taylor	Glenrock Anglican	Lay Director	Lorraine Phillips	Raymond Terrace
Stuart Bell	Glenrock Anglican	Proctor	Marea Niland	Raymond Terrace
Jim Warland	Kotara South	Proctor	Ann Dendle	Raymond Terrace
Derek Corless	Woy Woy	I.T	Noreen Robertson	New Lambton
Lance Phillips	Raymond Terrace	Gopher	Kathy Park	Beresfield
Michael Sinclair	Raymond Terrace	Gopher	Julie Roth	Raymond Terrace
Robert Joice	Glenrock Anglican	Muso	Jane Sinclair	Raymond Terrace
Gary Atherton	Cardiff/Boolaroo	S.A.	Rev Alison Wooden	Swansea
(To be confirmed)		S.A.	Rev Jenny Foley	
		TALKS		
Peter Eyre	Glenrock Anglican	TBA	Ella Means	New Lambton
Tony Farmer	Singleton	TBA	Debbie Gill	Medowie
Jon Hale	Wyong	TBA	Susie Norberger	Raymond Terrace
Warren Handley	Raymond Terrace	TBA	Robyn Plazier	Morpeth
Kerry Page	Raymond Terrace	TBA	Nicole Sargant	Cessnock
Roch Shamley	Anew	TBA	Cate Ewin	Bateau Bay
Brian Walsh	Cessnock	TBA	Sue Earl	Nelson Bay
Geoff Wooden	Southlakes	TBA	Wendy Seddon	Medowie
			Gail Isles	Lambton
			Jan Garard	Wyong



PASTORAL LETTER

For over a year now, Covid 19 has been at the centre of a lot of our thoughts, conversations and actions, which of course is the needed response to a deadly virus that's taken the lives of over 2 million people worldwide. But this does not change the need for putting Christ at the centre of all that we do; for our Lord asks us to seek God's kingdom above all else (Matthew. 6:33). This is a kingdom in which God rules from a throne of love in a closer relationship to us than we are to ourselves and, knowing our deepest longings and desires, He draws us into taking part in activities and prayers for the glory and extension of His kingdom.

We have all come to know the power of Cursillo weekends and their ability to focus the light of God's kingdom of love into the very hearts of its participants, providing them with experiences that can sometimes be life changing. I remember hearing a man at an Ultreya talking about how he had experienced many different forms of love throughout his life but after doing his Cursillo he felt he had come to know *Christian* love for the very first time. I think this man would have experienced Christian love prior to doing his Cursillo but it was only Cursillo that had made him aware of it; such is the power of Cursillo weekends.

I'm always impressed with the work that goes into the planning, preparation and running of a Cursillo weekend. But at the end of the day, it's always the Cursillistas on team who make it work, as they provide people doing their Cursillo with a loving example of what it means to be a member of the Body of Christ. Each of the team members have usually paid for their own weekend expenses but, because things aren't getting any cheaper, from now on the Secretariat would like to give people the opportunity to contribute financially to team member's accommodation and living expenses.

And while this of course is a request for money, the benefits will be more than financial by providing us with another means of working together as the body of Christ.

De Colores.

Fr Gary





Dear Colleague

May I introduce myself? I am an Anglican Priest in the Diocese of Tasmania and the National Spiritual Advisor for the Cursillo Australia Secretariat. I also hold the role of Publicity/Promotions Officer for the Anglican Cursillo Movement within Australia and it is in this role I write to you.

You will have been given this letter by one of your congregation who is, as we call those who have attended a three day Cursillo, a Cursillista. This person will be able to tell you of the worth and ongoing value of being associated with this movement. You may indeed find a number of Cursillistas in your Parish who meet together regularly in small groups, not just as a Bible Study, but a group of committed Christians supporting and encouraging each other in the three legs of our movement being Study, Piety and Apostolic Action.

You may also find that a number of Cursillistas make up your lay leadership in Parish Councils, and service leaders and readers. The Cursillo Three Day journey trains your laity in lay leadership and is indeed a lay led movement. Currently Bishop Ian Palmer (our Episcopal Overseer) and I are the only Ordained Priests in the National Secretariat.

Each Diocese has a Cursillo Secretariat (unfortunately some Diocese Secretariats are in recess) and each Secretariat is made up of Lay people and only one ordained Priest. As I said, this is a Lay led movement.

Cursillo is a worldwide movement and more information on the history and foundation of the movement in Australia can be found on our website <https://www.cursillo-australia.org/> In 2019 Australia had the great joy of introducing the movement to Hong Kong and Archbishop Matthias Der has been so supportive, recognising the spiritual growth of those participating and encouraging and supporting a translation into Cantonese so his native speaking flock can benefit from the Cursillo weekend.

I am prayerfully asking that you give an opportunity to one of our Cursillistas in your Parish to speak to your congregation of the joy and privilege of being a Cursillista and to encourage them to become the hands and feet of our Master fulfilling the Great Commission.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can offer further information on this wonderful ministry.

In His name and Service
Reverend Jane Lamont

National Spiritual Advisor and Publicity/Promotions Officer Cursillo Australia.

ULTREYA'S

Belmont

Praise the Lord! We have been able to attend an Ultreya.

Covid19 restrictions were in force with social distancing, masks and no singing. It was fabulous to be there and share this time together with our warm and welcoming Belmont Cursillistas. Belmont Ultreya was held on Sunday afternoon, the 24th January in All Saints church.



Nancy Lott led the Ultreya, and the hymns were sung by a choir consisting of Father Chris Bullock, Doug Roberts, Bill Nicolle and Robert Joice. The music was provided by Robert on piano, and Bill on guitar. The Witness Speaker was Anne Cocking, with Helen Edwards as Spiritual Adviser.

Anne spoke of her strong faith and the power of prayer in her life. She told of the general impact of Covid19 for her, as well as serious health issues that resulted with her admission to hospital. One night in particular Anne was in an extremely poor condition. She placed herself in the Lord's hands. Anne knew that prayer vigils were being held by her daughter, Reverend Janet and members of the parish. That night she finally slept peacefully, to awaken the next morning with her temperature down. Her health had improved to the degree that she could return home later that day. Anne's recuperation was rapid, in spite of her ongoing serious health issues, she has been able to return to her usual activities around the parish.



Helen reinforced Anne's personal experiences of faith and prayer from those experienced by other believers in the bible, and with many examples of the Lord instructing readers to turn to Him in prayer with confidence.

After Group Reunion, a Talk Fest of speakers was encouraged. Cursillistas told of their experiences during the Covid19 restrictions and how they were able to faithfully worship the Lord and celebrate their faith with other Christians.

Thankfully we were able to share an afternoon tea together, in a Covid safe way.

Jeanette Deaves, (All Saints, Southlakes)



Central Coast

In common, we guess, with other areas, Central Coast Ultreyas and Group Reunions have been in a state of flux. We discovered that it is possible to create new ways of celebrating locally and nationally with the Cursillo family. During January through contact between Cursillistas and Prayer Requests, we have mourned the Barr and Tant families' losses.

In whatever way each parish functions, we have a wonderful Lord and Saviour who remains with us in joy and peace through Holy Spirit. CC Servant Community met on Zoom to prepare for their proposed Deanery Ultreya on 20th February at 2pm at Bateau Bay and 15 gathered, hosted by Cate Ewin, Sue Wilkinson, Chris Bullock and Graham Eagleton responded to Helen's Witness, (below).

The screen shot represents early Kincumber men's and women's Group Reunions on Zoom. When not locked down they have been blessed to be able to gather in homes on a Thursday afternoon at 3pm and 4pm.



KNITTING AND KNOTTING.

Helen Fraser C/G W36 Table of Monica 1991

How do people see God through us? I've been asking myself questions, and sharing in Group Reunion Piety, Study and Apostolic Action, about how I witness to the people I meet, the people around me. I think we can't command how people should witness, except to act on Jesus' two great commandments, "Love God and love others."



Do I see sharing the good news as a task? **O**r as sharing my redeemed life with them; **A**m I thinking how busy I am? **O**r mindful of the situation I am in; **D**o I neglect opportunities of sharing the good news, fail to share a graced word or action? **O**r am I watching/listening to people from my two square metres?

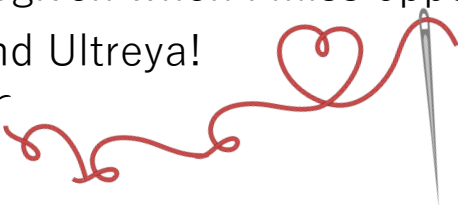
In our Zoom Bible Study of Mark chapter 7, our group read that the Pharisees let go of the commands of God and held onto human traditions. Jesus' frustration with them reminded me of Bryce Courtenay's frustration with some of his son's doctors' traditional old-school rules for the poor treatment of his haemophilia. His book, *April Fools Day*, and Jesus' words come close in helping me to think positively through our own son's illness and courage. Another daily read, the book of Esther, has been a good series for me in showing the quiet obedience and courage Esther needed from God to help save her fellow Jews in Persia; as is our obedience for the seekers around us.

In learning apostolic action I saw how making a macramé shoulder bag could help me understand the patience and peacefulness I need in witnessing to God's work as I go about. My mother started this bag before she lost her sight to macular degeneration by 2000, and I inherited it when she died in 2006. There are 80 strings worked in 20 knots across each row. Mum had done 30 rows; during Covid I took it up again. I can see where her work finished, and have now done about the same amount, row by row, or even half a row. But each and every knot gets me closer to the finished article. I think each loving word, question and action can also add up to God drawing people to himself.

I joined a dressmaking class at Gosford Sewing Centre. I knew no one except the teacher whom I met when I delivered my machine to be repaired. I went to class with a prayer about what would happen and decided to at least introduce myself and ask names and where from. I felt a great joy that I found all the women very different and yet very willing to share themselves. While we work together and notice each other in class, God's giving me opportunities to allow him to shine through me and recognise his light in each classmate! Using hands to sew is just one of *my* things; for others, it might be a women's group at church; or for men, joining a Men's Shed; or some community interest; God in Jesus, through the Holy Spirit is encouraging me to be consistently more present to those around me, to feel loved and loving; and forgiven when I miss opportunities.

De Colores and Ultreya!

Helen Fraser





KAIROS PRISON MINISTRY A WINDOW TO WHAT IS HAPPENING THROUGH THE "EYES" OF ST HELIERS, MUSWELLBROOK.

Like most ministries there have been challenges in the last year because of the COVID restrictions. The "Back to the Future" cartoon probably aligns with many of our feelings!

Our first experience was the cancellation of our Journey Day in March last year. We have not been able to enter St Heliers since then. Not only did this mean no further Journey Days, but also no Short Course for the year.

This has been difficult for us and for the inmates.

Our Committee at its last meeting in February was very grateful that the Prison Chaplain, Scott Kelly, was able to come and update us on the present situation.

An important point for us was the reassurance that Kairos is missed.

He made the following points which we believe help us to look to return; and give us a prayer focus.

Scott made a number of points:

- Corrective Services is responsible for the safety of inmates.
- Only 1 case of COVID has been reported in NSW prisons (Parklea).
- Practices include stringent testing and isolation.
- In-person visits were stopped. Additional phone calls were provided for inmates, but when AV calls were permitted, unfortunately the technology at St Heliers did not support it.
- Recently family visits have been restored, but no touching – 50 minutes personal visits.
- BUT there is the possibility of opportunity to return for a Journey Day. However no indication of a date.
- There was discussion of the DRAFT COVID Safe plan recently prepared. Some possibilities, including use of veranda were raised.



- Short Course is not a possibility at this time. This means that we are unable to select a team and begin formation training until we have a definite date.
- **He concluded his remarks by again reassuring us that Kairos is missed at St Heliers by both staff and inmates.**

There are many issues facing Kairos, as with other ministries. However, a significant challenge for Kairos, not only at St Heliers, is to recruit more volunteers for the ongoing ministry. Cursillo (both Anglican and Catholic) has been important in this regard in the past as well as Emmaus. Plans are in being put in place to arrange a number of information meetings across the Diocese. A prayer point indeed.

We are "planning ahead"; and are very encouraged by KOW (Kairos Outside for Women) in the Hunter who are now in training for their weekend program in April (16, 17 and 18) at Catalina.

We do give thanks to God for the service given over the years and for the opportunities of this ministry in the future. Your prayers are a blessing too!

Chris Bullock (Secretary, St Heliers Regional Committee).

PS We would welcome any enquires. Contact kisthelierssec@kairos.org.au; or 0438 68 4632

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+ Sovereign God, you are the Alpha and Omega
 + and every millisecond of our lives began with you.
 + Your days are without beginning or end.
 + We dedicate this coming year to you.
 + We pray that our lives would be filled and overflowing with the power of
 + your love so we can make a difference in this world and bring honour to you.
 + Use us, we pray, to fulfil your purposes in our lives.
 + Father we ask that your instrument of growth, Cursillo,
 + will help transform your peoples lives
 + and that through study, piety and apostolic action
 + we ask for your help in reminding us that the most important things
 + are not what we do outwardly, it's not based on any talent or gift,
 + but the most significant thing we can do in this life
 + is simply to love you and to choose to love others. **Amen**

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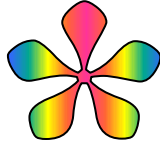
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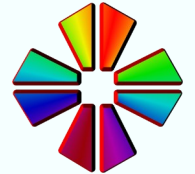
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