



Print Post 100003355 Summer 2022 - Number 113 Magazine of the Newcastle Cursillo Movement

CHRISTMAS



*May all the promises of Jesus' coming be yours!*

HOPE JOY PEACE

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. (Romans 15:13 NLT)

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**FROM OUR DIOCESAN  
SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR  
FR MARK COOPER**



Christmas is almost upon us again. As we get older it is not unusual to feel time passing at what seems a faster speed. Not only this, but celebrations that used to fill us with joy and wonder can become routine, losing the sparkle from our youth. This sparkle can be re-invigorated when we see these celebrations anew through the eyes of our children, and in later years, our grandchildren.

Before Christmas arrives, we have the season of Advent, a time of preparation. Unfortunately, in our consumeristic society, by Advent our Christmas celebrations seem to be fully underway. Carols have already been playing in our shopping centres, decorations are on full display, and the first of the many Christmas parties have started.

I find it interesting how many people decry the increasing commercialisation of Christmas, and yet each year we all find ourselves getting caught up in the unavoidable. I don't say this to be an Ebenezer Scrooge about Christmas but more to ponder out loud, how we might find space for an Advent type preparation amidst the noise and bustle going on around us.

Firstly, we need to think about what Advent is preparing for. Advent has two goals, to prepare us to celebrate the season (12 days) of Christmas, and to prepare us for Jesus' second coming.

Preparation to celebrate the season of Christmas does mean engaging in the commercial side, buying presents, cards, and food. Getting our homes ready for family and friends. However we should also balance this with the knowledge that our time together is more important than how much we have spent.

Don't peak too soon. How often do we get to Christmas day and think "Thank God that's over for another year?" It is almost impossible to spend Advent in a time of fasting and prayer, but we can make conscious choices not to overindulge.

To prepare for Jesus' second coming we should be using Advent as a time of spiritual spring cleaning. What habits of faith have we let slip over the year? The first Sunday of Advent is the liturgical calendar's New Year's Day so starting afresh makes some sense.

When we get to Christmas Day, try to come to it with the wonder of a child. Listen to the Christmas story in the carols that we know by heart. Look deep into the manger scene at the Christ Child lying helplessly in the hay. Empathise with your parish clergy trying desperately to say something new and interesting for their umpteenth year.

Personally, when I look into the manger scene I can't help but hear Jesus words "Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

De Colores

Fr Mark Cooper



# MONTHLY CURSILLO PRAYER DIARY

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

- Day 1 National Lay Director - Lew Hitchick
- Day 2 National Secretary - Leanne Doyle; (National Secretary Elect - Kay Self)
- Day 3 National Treasurer - Margaret Brodie
- Day 4 National Episcopal Advisor - Bishop Ian Palmer
- Day 5 National Spiritual Advisor - Reverend Jane Lamont; (Elect -Reverend Lee Weissel)
- Day 6 National Webmaster - Shirley Tongue
- Day 7 World Cursillo Community
- Day 8 Diocesan Co-Lay Directors - Noelene Lentfer
- Day 9 Diocesan Co-Lay Directors - Geoff Wooden
- Day 10 Diocesan Spiritual Director - Reverend Mark Cooper
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- Day 12 Diocesan Treasurer - Colleen Read
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- Day 15 Servant Community Coordinator - Leonie Toovey
- Day 16 Servant Community Coordinator - Lorraine Phillips
- Day 17 Diocesan Proctor and Copyright Coordinator - Brian Taylor
- Day 18 'The Encourager' Editorial Team - Noreen Robertson
- Day 19 Palanca Coordinator - Robin Timp
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- 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 - Cheryl Cooper
- 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 - W50 Marea Niland
- Day 28 Lay Directors - M50 Ken Iles
- 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  
&  
GEOFF WOODEN



*Christmas Message  
from the Diocesan Co-Lay Directors.*



Welcome to our Christmas Edition of the Encourager 2022. We send greetings to all Cursillistas, welcoming our new Cursillistas from Men's and Women's 49.

As we write this report and reflect on the past year we give thanks to God that we were able to meet face to face for Ultreyas, conduct our Cursillo Weekends, celebrate the Welcome Day and 'Women Celebrating Our Faith' then come together as a Diocesan Cursillo Family for the Diocesan Ultreya.

Reports on these events are included in this edition of the Encourager.

Praise God for the Cursillo Movement, for the people in parishes enriched and enlivened over this past year through Cursillo. Continue to pray that this involvement will continue. There is something special about praising God together with His people, and we should take every opportunity we can to do so.

In this Encourager and on the Website you will find **dates for 2023.**

Please put these dates in your diary and attend as many events as you can. It is in coming together to share that we are reminded of God's love for us in Jesus Christ.

We would like to thank everyone whose work supports the Cursillo Ministry in so many ways.

It is your support, prayer and encouragement that helps to continue in running of the Cursillo Ministry.

As we approach the end of this year and prepare to travel through Advent to Christmas we give thanks for the Christ Child who came amongst us to bring Love, Joy and Peace to the world.

May this Love, Joy and Peace be with you and your families this Christmas Time.

Have a Blessed Holy Christmas and may the New Year bring many Blessings.

*De Colores*

*Noelene and Geoff*



# Finance and Ministry

I recently planted some sunflowers with my five-year-old granddaughter who thoroughly enjoyed digging the holes and sowing the seeds, which had come from a variety of different types of sunflowers. In a few months, when the flowers are blooming, the garden will be alive with an array of plants, each one contributing to the beauty of the garden through its individual size, shape and colour.



This isn't unlike the many and varied ministries people are good enough to undertake within the church, each one contributing to the colour and variety of activities that make the church so vibrant. And make no mistake, each person plays a vital role in contributing to the beauty and wholeness of God's kingdom.

Each year, at our parish's annual general meeting, I make a point of thanking people for their various ministries. But it took me a while to realize that people who are making a financial contribution to the church need to be thanked at the meeting as well. Yes, there

are people who work tirelessly to keep the wheels of the church in motion, who we couldn't possibly do without, but we do live in a day an age in which parish finances are just as important. For the finances will often provide us with the tools we need for our labour.

And the necessary financial support is just as important for ministries within the Cursillo movement. For this movement, of which we are apart, continues to revitalize the lives of hundreds of people throughout the diocese.

So, the Secretariat is asking for parishes to prayerfully consider financially supporting candidates who will be attending M50 and W50 in 2023, remembering the life changing impact that these weekends have already had on so many people's lives. And any financial support from parishes next year will be gratefully received and appreciated as we endeavour to empower the candidates to bloom and grow with all the vibrant colours of the Cursillo movement.

De Colores

Fr Gary Atherton



**Christ is counting on you**

# Prayer from National Spiritual Advisor

Reverend Jane Lamont

## Prayer for November 2022

Having just returned from the first face to face Cursillo National Secretariat Conference PCLD (Post Covid Lock Down) in Perth WA I was moved and delighted with the sense of community and warm fellowship we experienced. I was reminded that the Lord created us to be in communion with each other. Science has proven that we are happier, healthier and more productive when we have social connections and meaningful relationships in our lives, hence my prayer for this month.

Father of all,

We thank you for the people in our lives that love us and encourage us. We thank you for the support and sustaining nourishment of those relationships. We thank you for the close intimate bonds and for the empathy, harmony and affinity we have with them  
We thank you for friendships we forge in our play activities, our work and our communities.

We pray Lord for those who are not so fortunate, those who have no family or are estranged from them.

We pray for those who are lonely and have no support around them.

We pray Father God for those who struggle to make or hold friendships and relationships, may you lead them to trust and hold out their hands to accept kindness and goodwill when it is offered and for them to experience the tenderness and devotion you instil in your people.

You Lord are the cornerstone of all relationships. We pray that you will use us to draw people into your love so they too come to know you, the Father of all.

Amen

## from The Editor

Both *The Encourager* and the *Newcastle Cursillo Guidelines* are available on the Newcastle Cursillo Website [www.cursillonewcastle.org.au](http://www.cursillonewcastle.org.au)

Receive your copy of *The Encourager* via email or by accessing the copy on the website.

Email me with news items or Deanery updates you wish to be included in *The Encourager*.

Are your **contact details** correct?

- postal address? email address? phone number?
- Email me with any updates



De colores,

Noreen Robertson

[encourager@cursillonewcastle.org.au](mailto:encourager@cursillonewcastle.org.au)



# Diocesan Ultreya 2022

Seventy Cursillistas gathered at Mayfield Anglican Church on Saturday the 5<sup>th</sup> October for the Diocesan Ultreya.

What a wonderful occasion was had as we shared together in Worship and Song and Group Reunion.

The Cursillo Annual Report was presented by our Diocesan Co-Lay Leaders, Geoff and Noelene. This was followed by our Witness Speaker, Warren Handley. His witness talk was very moving and a great encouragement to each one of us as we face our life's journey with all its challenges. The message was: it is in Christ alone that our every need is met.

We then moved to the Commissioning by Bishop Peter of Ken Iles and Marea Niland as Lay Directors for Men's 50 and Women's 50 Cursillo weekends in 2023. Jeanette Deaves and Lynn Dunnicliff, who have completed their term on Secretariat, were decommissioned from their duties. Bishop Peter thanked them for their ministry over many years.

New members of Secretariat, Lorraine Phillips as Servant Community Coordinator and Robin Timp as Palanca Coordinator, were commissioned into their respective positions.

Acclamation of thanks was extended to all.

Bishop Peter led the Eucharist and delivered an encouraging address.

Our day and our worship time was greatly enhanced by the music team ably led by Bill Nicole, with daughter Jane leading the singing. A big thank you to them for their music ministry to us.

We wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to Rev. Mark Cooper for his support and for the work he did in preparing the Power Point. Our thanks also to Mayfield Parish for hosting the Ultreya.

We finished our time together in song and with a Blessing.

We give thanks to God for His Blessings to us in Cursillo.

De Colores and Ultreya







# Diary Dates for 2023

**Men's 50** Lay Director: Ken Iles, 17th August - 20th August; Venue: Catalina

**Women's 50** Lay Director: Marea Niland, 31st August - 3rd September; Venue: Catalina

**Team Commissioning:** Saturday 6th May @ Cardiff

**Training Days:** 20th May; 17th June; 1st July; 22nd July; 5th August @ Cardiff

**Welcome Day:** Saturday 23rd September @ TBA

## Secretariat Meetings New Lambton @7pm

February 7th; March 7th; April 4th; May 2nd; June 6th; July 4th;  
August 1st; September 5th; October 3rd - M50 & W50 LD's to attend;  
November 7th with Bishop; December 5th - Christmas Tea.

## Servant Community Duties 2023

**MEN'S 50: 17TH AUGUST - 20TH AUGUST 2023 @ CATALINA CONFERENCE CENTRE**

Mananita - Newcastle; Clausura - Lake Macquarie;  
Palanca & Welcoming (Thursday) - Central Coast

**WOMEN'S 50: 31ST AUGUST - 3RD SEPTEMBER 2023 @ CATALINA CONFERENCE CENTRE**

Mananita - Lake Macquarie; Clausura - Newcastle;  
Palanca & Welcoming (Thursday) - Central Coast

**WELCOME DAY MEN'S 50 AND WOMEN'S 50**

Saturday 23rd September @ TBA (Maitland, Upper Hunter, Paterson & Manning)

## Ultreya Dates 2023

### Ultreya Dates Central Coast & Lake Macquarie

**Toukley** (with Lakes Anglican & Wyong): Saturday 18th February, 12 noon for 1pm;

**Belmont** (East Lake Macquarie): Friday 24th February, 6pm;

**The Entrance** (with Bateau Bay): Saturday 15th April, 12 noon for 1pm;

**Glenrock:** Sunday 28th May, 2pm;

**Southlakes:** Sunday 27th August, 2pm.

### Ultreya Dates Newcastle & Maitland

**Lambton:** Friday 17th March, 6pm for 6:30pm;

**Cessnock:** Saturday 29th April, 9:30am for 10am;

**Merewether** (with Cathedral & Cooks Hill): Saturday 17th June, 2:30pm;

**New Lambton:** Friday 14th July, 6:30pm;

**Kotara South:** Friday 13th October, 6pm for 6:30pm.

### Diocesan Ultreya

Saturday November 4th, 9:30am @ venue: TBA



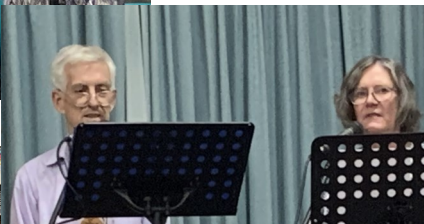
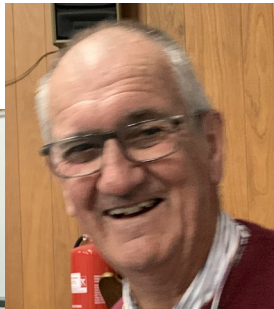
# ULTREYA

## Kotara South Ultreya

Friday evening 14th October saw a gathering of people from Newcastle and Lake Macquarie deaneries for an Ultreya at Kotara South.

The LD was Fr. Chris Bullock; Spiritual Advisor, Fr Zeb McKrell; Witness Speaker, Lynne Parsons; music was lead by Steve & Lynne Parsons,

A bring and share meal was enjoyed by all.



Let us know is happening in your Deanery?  
Advertise an upcoming Ultreya; write a report on a past Ultreya.  
Write a personal reflection on your post-Cursillo experience.  
Send in an article and some photos for the next edition of *The Encourager* to The Editor:  
[encourager@cursillonewcastle.org.au](mailto:encourager@cursillonewcastle.org.au)

**Christ is counting on you**

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#### SECRETARIAT MEETINGS 2023

##### NEW LAMBTON @ 7PM

FEBRUARY 7TH; MARCH 7TH; APRIL 4TH;  
MAY 2ND; JUNE 6TH; JULY 4TH;  
AUGUST 1ST; SEPTEMBER 5TH;  
OCTOBER 3RD - M50 & W50 LD'S TO ATTEND;  
NOVEMBER 7TH - BISHOP ATTENDS;  
DECEMBER 5TH - CHRISTMAS TEA.



## A SPECIAL PRAYER FOR DAILY USE

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.



### MEN'S 50 LAY DIRECTOR

KEN ILES

17TH AUGUST - 20TH AUGUST 2023

### WOMEN'S 50 LAY DIRECTOR

MAREA NILAND

31ST AUGUST - 3RD SEPTEMBER 2023

**COMMISSIONING:** 6TH MAY @ CARDIFF

**TRAINING DAYS:**

20TH MAY; 17TH JUNE; 1ST JULY;

22ND JULY; 5TH AUGUST.

**WELCOME DAY:** 23RD SEPTEMBER @ TBA

**DIOCESAN ULTREYA:** 4TH NOVEMBER @ TBA



## CURSILLO NATIONAL CONFERENCE, PERTH 2022

This was our first experience of a National gathering, so neither of us had any idea of what to expect.

What we experienced was a gathering of like-minded people from six dioceses who came together out of a desire to see Cursillo flourish. Those present were from Perth, Bunbury, Bathurst, Tasmania, South Queensland, and of course, Newcastle.

There were apologies from some who found the distance to Perth too great.

In some ways it was a typical Cursillo event with laughter, praise, singing, worship, meditations, rainbows, food and fellowship; intermingled with an AGM and discussions around the problems each diocese faces; and various suggested solutions, some of which have been trialled.

We were all reminded that Cursillo is not a static formula, it's a living movement; and we were encouraged to think how we might adapt it to our context and local needs. Apart from combined weekends and shortened weekends, some other ideas which have been explored are 'Taster Days' where the general Cursillo format is used to present a themed one-day workshop; and Fourth Day pilgrimages as palanca to areas that may be struggling.

Everyone agreed that the most effective aspects of Cursillo presentations are the personal stories and lived experiences.

While the conference was 'National,' Perth Secretariat was responsible for arranging the venue, catering and other 'nuts and bolts.' The program was set by National Secretariat and the National Spiritual Advisor was responsible for the roster for prayers, services, etc. The timing of the conference was set to coincide with the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations of Brisbane diocese taking Cursillo to Perth. On the Saturday evening, we attended the anniversary dinner at St Barnabas, Kalamunda and were made very welcome.

Three members of the original Brisbane team were present.



Newcastle have put up our hand to host the National Conference in 2024. As yet, no diocese has offered to host the 2023 conference. One option that is going to be explored is for National Secretariat to offer to organize a conference in one of the dioceses that is struggling, with the aim of helping to reinvigorate their Cursillo Fourth Day.

De Colores!  
Geoff and Alison Wooden



# Women Celebrating Our Faith

Eighty ladies from across the Diocese gathered at All Saints Anglican Church New Lambton on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> October to celebrate women in our church and their faith journey.

The Theme for the day "Faith Grows." For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field. You are God's building. 1 Corinthians 3:9.



Bishop Sonia was Chaplain for the day and led the reflections and prayers.

The four Guest Speakers: Jennifer Forester, Rev. Toni Wein, Tracie Hendriks and Rev. Nicole Baldwin, were inspirational as they shared their faith journey with us.

Very personal and a great encouragement to us all.



The music was organized by Noreen Robertson. Jennifer Forester led our singing.



The day commenced with morning tea followed later by warm fellowship shared over lunch.



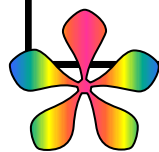
The day finished with closing prayers, led by Bishop Sonia, and the singing of our Theme song "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less."

A wonderful day was had by all who attended.

De Colores!  
Noelene Lentfer  
Coordinator



**DIRECTORY of DEANERIES,  
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and  
PARISH CONTACTS**



**IMPORTANT!**

Please notify  
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# THE ENCOURAGER

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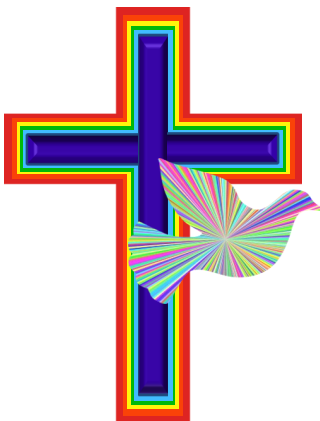
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