

Print Post 100003357 Winter 2023 - Number 115 Magazine of the Newcastle Cursillo Movement

Winter 2023

.... see inside for the latest news from the Diocesan Co-LD's, reports & photos from Ultreyas, Palanca for M50 & W50, positions vacant, and more

God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

1 Peter 4:10 (NLT)

UnfoldingFaith.org

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FROM OUR DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR FR MARK COOPER

Praying with the Spirit
Encouragement

Pastoring
Faith Tongues
Giving
Discernment
Administration
Arts and Crafts
Miracles Preaching Mercy
Intercession
Music Missions
Apostleship

In 1 Timothy 4.14 Paul encourages Timothy to not neglect the gift that is in him. Cursillo encourages us to use our gifts in the 4th day, but this is tricky. What are my gifts? Are they really good enough? Doubt can undermine our self esteem so that we dare not use them.

Evangelism

Hospitality
Teaching
Healing

Service Knowledge

How often do we look at someone so obviously gifted that we wished we were them? It is so easy to devalue and dismiss the gifts we have as being inadequate and not up to the task. Even really talented people have been known to doubt their own talent and suffer from insecurity that can lead to bouts of depression.

In the days before the internet and global communications, people didn't have the best and most talented people in the world to compare themselves to. The best singer in the village was celebrated for their gifts. They were the best and everyone appreciated them.

All gifts come from God and we are given the gifts that are needed for the mission and service we are called to. When we compare ourselves to other people we can start to doubt that God has given us what is really needed for the task.

I love the saying, "Be yourself. Everyone else is taken." God created us, as we are. God has given us our gifts and talents. God has a place for us in the community and expects us to exercise our gifts and talents.

Of course, we do need to look for opportunities to improve our gifts. Even members of Symphony Orchestras didn't start out with that amount of skill. Using our gifts regularly, looking for workshops to improve, and feed back on how we are going, can improve our skill and give us more confidence.

If anyone makes you feel like your gifts aren't good enough, remember St Paul's illustration of the body. All the parts of the body are needed and none can be excluded without compromising the body.

De Colores Fr Mark Cooper

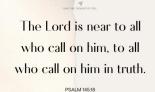


MONTHLY CURSILLO PRAYER DIARY

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 Director Noelene Lentfer
- Day 9 Diocesan Co-Lay Director Geoff Wooden
- Day 10 Diocesan Spiritual Director Reverend Mark Cooper Diocesan Spiritual Advisor - Reverend Judy Walsh
- Day 11 Diocesan Secretary Lyn Wickham
- Day 12 Diocesan Treasurer Colleen Read
- Day 13 Fourth Day/Applications/Promotion Liz O'Sullivan
- Day 14 Prayer Coordinator Reverend Alison Wooden
- Day 15 Servant Community Coordinator Susie Foster
- 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 Robyn Timp
- 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 Reverend Wendy Brack
- Day 23 Paterson Clergy, Servant Community; Deanery Contact Cheryl Cooper
- Day 24 Manning Clergy, Servant Community; Deanery Contact Position vacant
- 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 Director W50 Marea Niland
- Day 28 Lay Director 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

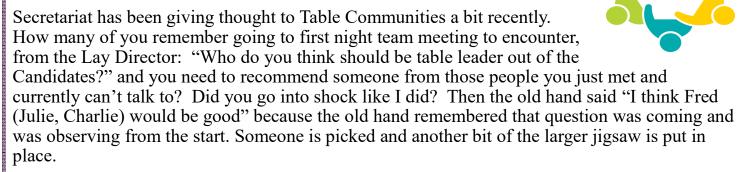
NOELENE LENTFER

&
GEOFF WOODEN



Greetings from Noelene and Geoff.

Welcome to the Winter Edition of the Encourager. Pray you will enjoy the read and will be able to respond to the requests in support of the success of Cursillo Ministry.



So, when we are preparing for a weekend, there are all the talks and they are rehearsed, critiqued (criticised by some more judgemental types) and refined. This is only right. Some huge impact comes from the talks and they are the key to an "authentic" message. There are a lot of talks but you may be surprised (well, I was) that they total only about 4 hours (if each lasts about 15 minutes). Someone has added it all up and participants are in Table Communities about 75% of the time.

The Table Community is where we come out of our silos. It is where we process our thoughts on the talks. It is where the emotions can boil over and where Christian love is directly shared. Many years ago, at a service for hostel dwellers (most of whom are in some way damaged) the question was asked "Who is Jesus?" and one reply was "God with skin on." Well, Jesus left us to it a few centuries ago, so the Table Communities have to start out with the Team members as God with skin on, no one else is available.

That raises another thing that has been on our minds a bit lately. 4th Day. How is your 4th day going? How many people see you as God with skin on? De Colores

PS – Someone is going to tell us Jesus left us the Holy Spirit. He did. But we are still called to be God with skin on.



Diocesan Ultreya 2023

The Diocesan Ultreya will be held on 4th November 2023 at St Andrew's Anglican Church, 31 Church Street, Mayfield commencing 9.30am with morning tea then Ultreya 10am. Please bring your lunch and share in fellowship following the Ultreya.



Look forward to seeing you there. Ultreya. Noelene & Geoff



Prayer for July 2023

Prayer for Mothers

Almighty Father, we praise you and thank you for mothers everywhere and in every stage of life.

Lord, bless all new mothers everywhere. You have given them the blessing of a new life to care for. Please equip them with the grace and wisdom they need to be the best mothers they can be.

Lord, I pray for adoptive mothers and foster mothers. Thank you for how they faithfully serve you and their children. Thank you that you are the ultimate example of adopting us into your loving family.

Lord, I pray for single mothers everywhere. Bless them with the power, through your Holy Spirit, to raise their children with grace, wisdom, and truth. During those moments of difficulty and despair, remind them of the promises from your word to strengthen and encourage their souls

Lord, I pray for working moms, that you will give them the strength to keep going each day. During moments of fatigue and stress, calm their hearts and minds through your Word.

Lord, I pray for stay-at-home moms. Strengthen them each day as they seek to serve you in their homes. Bless them as they care for their families with diligence and delight.

Lord, I pray for mothers of adult children. Although their children are grown up, they will never stop loving their children.

Lord, I pray for mothers who are dealing with the pain of a prodigal child. Embrace them in your arms of tender care, and may they receive your comfort and strength. Help them to not give up on their children, but to patiently wait for them to return home.

Lord, I pray for women who desire to become mothers, but are struggling with infertility. Hold them close in your arms, and give them the comfort and strength they need each day.

Lord, I pray for mothers who are grieving. Whether they are mourning the loss of a friend, family member, or a precious child, comfort them with the strength and comfort that can only come from you.

In the name of our Lord Jesus Amen

The Lord is near to All who call on Him.

Psalm 145:18

Thanks to Garments of Splendour

prayer, being watchful and thankful." *Colossians 4:2*

New Secretariat Member



My name is Reverend Judy Walsh, W34, table of Hannah, and it is my privilege to serve God once again as a member of Secretariat.

I grew up in Sydney and became a Christian in my early teens and give thanks to God every day for the many blessings He has given me in this life. A wonderful husband Brian, who sadly passed away in July last year, three wonderful children and 9 very precious grandchildren and the list goes on....

Serving God through Cursillo has made me realise just how blessed we are when we can 'make a friend, be a friend and bring that friend to Jesus' so often in our daily lives. As Matthews gospel tells us "Just as the son of man did not come to be served, but to serve" so too we are called to serve God by reaching out to others. Cursillo offers us that wonderful opportunity.

De Colores, Rev'd Judy Walsh, W34 Diocesan Spiritual Advisor



Positions Vacant

Are you wondering what you can do with your spare time and how you could help with the Cursillo Ministry in the Diocese?

Maybe God is calling you to consider joining Secretariat to fill one of the vacant positions in 2024.

Position 1
Treasurer

Position 2
Servant Community Coordinator



Please contact Noelene Lentfer

Phone: 0410 562 798

Email: <u>noelenelentfer@bigpond.com</u>

Remember God is counting on you.

Christ is counting on you

Look forward to hearing from you.

De Colores,

Noelene Lentfer Co Lay Director



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

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

Welcome Day: Saturday 23rd September @ St Johns Cessnock

Secretariat Meetings New Lambton @7pm

August 1st; September 5th with Bishop Peter; October 3rd - M50 & W50 LD's to attend; November 7th; December 5th - Christmas Tea.

Servant Community Duties M50/W50

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

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

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

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

WELCOME DAY MEN'S 50 AND WOMEN'S 50

Saturday 23rd September, 9:30am @ St Johns Cessnock

Ultreya Dates 2023



Southlakes: Sunday 27th August, 2pm.

Ultreya Dates Newcastle & Maitland

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

Diocesan Ultreya

Saturday November 4th, 9:30am @ St Andrews Mayfield

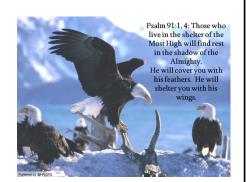


Contribution from Ruth McFarlane (W1)

Sheltered Under His Wing.

This is how I have felt over the past 14 months, along with *Guided, Protected and Strengthened.*

December 21, I visited my sister-in-law at Tea Gardens for Christmas. While I was there my niece came to see me, dusty after having just completed a garden in a new house her husband had just built. She saw the difficulty I was having standing and walking because of my arthritic knees.



That night she and her husband took the new home owner out for dinner to hand over his keys to him. The dinner conversation came round to what do you do and the chap said "I am a knee surgeon, but I only operate on difficult knees." My niece said "You should see my aunt." He said he would, phone numbers were exchanged and in February I went for my first visit. Before this I had dismissed the idea of surgery because I have for years suffered with thrombosis, blood clots in my legs that led to two pulmonary embolisms, one clot passing through my heart before lodging in my lung.

The Doctor treating me in emergency that day said he didn't know how I was there, to which I replied, "Well, He has something more for me to do. "Back to my knees. I was booked to have surgery in May but was extremely grateful when I received a phone call telling me I could be done next week, in March. (Covid cancellation) I had no time to think about or worry just did what I was told and turned up. (Guided?)

All went well, back into rehab a week later and seeing my doctor again for follow up in May. The date was set for my next knee, September, but again this was brought forward because of Covid cancellations. Only four days to prepare again so no time to worry or stress. (*Protected?*)

The second op in July went well, throughout both experiences I had very little pain and felt constantly supported and guided by our wonderful Lord. Come January 23, I felt so well, had been dieting, exercising and walking and felt the healthiest I had for about fifteen years. My grand daughter was home in Canberra for Christmas, I hadn't seen her for two years because of Covid restrictions, and felt a real urge to go to Canberra to see her before she went back to Tasmania. So, packed up and drove down on January 23rd. It was a long drive, usually five hours but I was caught up in traffic at Campbelltown so it ended up taking six and a half hours. Lots of traffic, through tunnels and so on. I was only in Canberra for about three hours and I had what I thought was a fall ending up in Casualty at Canberra hospital to be told I had had a heart attack. Imagine if I had been on the way down! The ramifications are mind boggling, again I felt guided and protected.

The Canberra health system is excellent. The next day I had another heart attack, the next day an angiogram and the next day a pace maker was installed. I just went along with what I was being told, feeling constantly that God was with me throughout everything. Years ago when I made my Cursillo I learnt to give my concerns to God and to leave them there. My worry isn't going to change anything. This was how I felt throughout the past fourteen months. Sheltered under His wing as I have been guided to follow Him, **strengthened** to do His will and protected always.

De colores, Ruth

Palanca

Can you remember the powerful feelings you felt when you received your first **Palanca?**

So much love and encouragement received by people you did not know. **WOW!**Our God working through us to display His love and grace.
You can give that feeling to those attending Men's and Women's 50.

M50 TEAM

Ken Iles (LD, Grace, Christian Living & Community)

Revd Stephen Shrubb (SA)

Revd Steve Niland (SA)

Bill Nicolle (Proctor)

Revd Chris Bullock (Proctor, Ideal & JOG)

Lance Phillips (Gopher)

Gordon Wenham (Gopher)

Jon Hale (Muso)

Jim Cleland (Leaders)

Tom Mulley (Environment)

John Doyle (Apostolic Action)

Peter Eyre (Laity)

Revd Michael Birch (Piety)

Graham Eagleton (Study)

M50 CANDIDATES

Mark McCann (New Lambton)
Graeme Jeans (Lakes Anglican)
Rodney Drysdale (Williamtown)
Phillip Berry-Byrnes (Kotara South)
Tallis Watters-Cowan (Kotara South)
Philip Brazier (Stockton)
Otto van Dyk (Stockton)

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W50 TEAM

Marea Niland (LD)

Revd Judy Walsh (SA)

Revd Wendy Brack (SA)

Denise Brown (Proctor)

Nicole Sargant (Assistant Proctor)

Karen Lizasoain (Gopher)

Cate Ewin (Gopher)

Susie Foster (IT)

Jackie McMichael (Muso)

Jane Molloy (Study)

Debbie Gilbert (Leaders)

Lorraine Phillips (Ideal)

Barbara Warland (Grace)

Wendy Seddon (Apostolic Action)

Elizabeth Cooper (Environment)

Lorraine Pearce-Adams (Laity)

Sue Royal (Piety)

Anne Cocking (Christian Living)

Donna McCann (Christian Community in Action)

W50 CANDIDATES

Lisa West (Wyong)

Lynelle Lapinskas (Wyong)

Elizabeth Royal (Kaleen, ACT)

Sharlene Maas (New Lambton)

Dayle Pascoe (Glenrock)

Verina Rallings (Nelson Bay)

Carolyn Silver (Tamworth)

Linda Winn (Lambton)

Hayley Elzinga (Raymond Terrace)

Angela McDonald (Cessnock)

Carol White (Cameron Park)

Lyn Hughes (Cameron Park)

Isabella Foster (Cameron Park)

Kay Walters (Cameron Park)

Katherine Berry-Byrnes (Kotara South)

Vanessa Carpenter (Cessnock)

Maryanne Bulbert (Raymond Terrace)

Sharryn McDonald (Cessnock)

Jan Boyd (Cessnock)



To be held at St John's Anglican Church, Westcott Street, Cessnock.

Saturday 23rd September 2023

The day will commence with morning tea at 9:30and and Program at 10am. This is a wonderful opportunity to welcome and encourage the new Cursillistas and to share in fellowship with one another.

Bring your own lunch. Tea & Coffee provided.













ULTREYA'S

Cessnock



†††††††††

Glenrock

Lake Macquarie Deanery held their second Ultreya of the year on Sunday 28th May. It was well supported with about forty guests in attendance. Cursillistas came from Newcastle, Maitland, Paterson and Central Coast Deaneries and it was a wonderful afternoon of fellowship/renewing old friendships. The afternoon was well directed by Rosemary Menhenick in her role as Lay Director, Robert Joice as always provided beautiful music. I thought the singing was amazing. We commenced with Trevor Smith (Waratah Male Choir/Eastlakes-Swansea Parish), singing a solo to "How Great Thou Art" and the fellow Cursillistas joining in with the chorus-it truly brought up "the hairs on the back of your neck". However, indeed the highlight of the afternoon was the awe-inspiring Witness Talk given by Anne Cook. Anne is a relatively new Cursillista (Women's 49) but I am sure, we will hear more from her in the future. Rev. Toni Wein (in her first Ultreya at Glenrock) gave a delightful Spiritual Response. A truly glorious afternoon was had by all. The next Lake Macquarie Ultreya will be at All Saints Anglican Church, Morisset on Sunday 27th August at 1.30 for 2pm. We so much look forward to seeing you.

God Bless, Brian Taylor GROUP

ULTREYA'S

Central Coast

CENTRAL COAST ULTREYA at TERRIGAL Saturday 24 June 2023



A number of people joined in a BYO lunch followed by a beautiful Ultreya with Libby Harvey as LD host and muso, Revd Ann Watson as SD, and Revd Richard Harvey as Witness Speaker. Libby reminded us of why we call out 'Ultreya' on our pilgrimage and of Hebrews 10:23-25: "Let us 'hold firmly to the hope we

profess,' 'be concerned for one another,' 'not give up the habit of meeting,' 'encourage one another' as we see the Day of the Lord coming nearer."

The smaller number could have given our two guests the impression of mediocrity but, no, there was a great sense of brother-and sister-fellowship, which filled the church with the presence of Jesus through the Holy Spirit. We appreciated the good music and singing, the sharing in the three Group



Reunions, Richard's witness of the Trinity, in his life, and in his work in aged care chaplaincy, and Ann's response to this witness. Terrigal Cursillistas were a great encouragement to the other Cursillistas from Bateau Bay, Lakes and Kincumber groups. Helen Fraser

Merewether (including Cathedral, Cooks Hill & Merewether)

The outcome of any Ultreya relies on the sum of all the parts involved. It isn't how well it's planned, how good the singing or how eloquent the speakers although these all contribute and certainly impacted on Saturday 17th June at Merewether. A local parishioner told me she could hear the singing from her unit which is some distance away so that certainly got a tick.





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ULTREYA'S

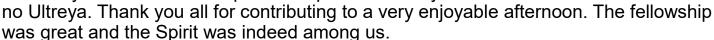
Merewether cont'd



The witness talk given by Roger Cornish was interesting in its presentation woven around the impact of seeing the Rembrandt painting "The Return of the Prodigal Son" (in the flesh so to speak) and its effect on him in relation to his faith journey which in itself was both thought provoking and something to which many of us could relate at some point in our lives. In her introduction, wife Carole filled us in on

some of the main interests and focus of Roger's life which added another layer of interest. Our Spiritual Advisor for the afternoon, Rev'd Ruth Brand gave a

very thorough and thoughtful response to the Witness Talk and later led us in Saturday Evening Prayer which brought the meeting to a fitting close. The constant buzz in the hall during Group Reunion indicated active participation. To me, however, it is those of you who attend and enthusiastically engage with all these elements who ultimately make the most important impact. Without you there would be no Ultreya. Thank you all for contributing to a very enjoyable afternoon.

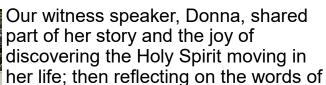


De colores, Rosemary Allen - W43 - Table of Naomi.

New Lambton



Friday evening 14 July was the evening of the Ultreya at New Lambton. The evening was lead by Liz O'Sullivan, with Reverend Judy Walsh, the Spiritual Advisor, Chris Lewis playing the piano, and Witness Speaker, Donna McCann. It was a wonderful evening of singing, fellowship, food and group reunion.



Jeremiah 31:16-17 as her source of strength and reminder of God's abiding faithfulness and hope in all circumstances. Donna concluded with the words of Psalm 34:4-7 - "I sought the Lord, and he answered me, and delivered me from all my fears. Look to Him, and be radiant; so your faces will never be ashamed ..." Donna's take home thought was

to assure those gathered that she could never have gotten through the challenges she faced

without having a hope in Jesus.

The radiance on Donna's face as she spoke and shared her journey was evident to all.

The evening concluded with Reverend Judy leading the gathering in Compline.

De Colores, Noreen Robertson, W1











A message from The Editor



I trust you find inspiration and encouragement as you read this edition of The Encourager. It is very pleasing to have received a personal testimony from Ruth McFarlane, along with reports and photos focusing on Ultreyas from around the Diocese. Please continue to make contributions to this publication through a variety of ideas: photos and reports from Ultreyas, book reviews, personal testimonies and other items of interest. This publication is for Cursillistas across the Diocese to encourage one another in their Christian faith and daily walk with Jesus. Sharing one another's stories enables us to give praise to God in the joys and challenges, and to pray for one another in all circumstances.

I have enjoyed and valued my tenure as Editor of The Encourager, and appreciated the contributions, feedback and words of encouragement you have given over the past 18 months.

However, after much prayer and due to personal circumstances, this will be my last edition as Editor of The Encourager. I have formally relinquished this position to Secretariat, and am grateful for their ongoing prayers and support.

I am pleased to announce that Susie Foster will be taking over this role as from the Summer 2023 Edition. The email address for your contributions will remain the same, as below.

Once again, thank you and De Colores, Noreen Robertson

Christ is counting on you

Both *The Encourager* and the *Newcastle Cursillo Guidelines* are available on the Newcastle Cursillo Website www.cursillonewcastle.org.au

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

Email The Editor, Susie Forster, 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 The Editor with any updates

De colores, Noreen Robertson encourager@cursillonewcastle.org.au



Women Celebrating Our Faith 2023

Women Celebrating Our Faith will be lead this year by Cheryl Cooper.

The theme of the day is

"Women celebrating their faith through music and song."

The prayer for the day is **Ephesians 5:19** "Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord."

The day will be held at All Saints Anglican Church, corner St James Road and Regent Street, New Lambton on Saturday 9th September 2023 at 9:30am for a 10:00am start and concluding at 3:00pm

There will be guest speakers, music, songs, worship and fun. Please come and join us for a day of worship with the beautiful Christian women of our Diocese

For further information please contact Cheryl Cooper 0412 140 296 or Lorraine Phillips 0419 277 294





Women Celebrating Our Faith 2023

Leader - Cheryl Cooper



All Saints Anglican Church
Corner St James Road and Regent Street, New Lambton
Saturday 9th September 2023
9:30am registration and morning tea.
10:00am start and concluding at 3:00pm

Ephesians 5:19

Speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord."

Outline: Arrive 9:30am for a 10:00am start. Welcoming and Guest Speaker, music and singing and more singing
12:00 pm to 1:00 pm – Lunch
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm - Guest Speaker,
music and singing and more singing and closure.
Cheryl Cooper 0412 140 296 / Lorraine Phillips 0419 277 294

Registration Form: Women Celebrating our Faith 2023

Name:
Parish:
Email:
Phone:
Special Dietary Requirements:

Cost: \$30.00 (paid by 1st September) – includes Morning Tea, Lunch and Conference Costs (covid Safe requirements; All food will be individually wrapped)

Payment: Direct Deposit – BSB 705 077 Account – 00041127

Reference – your name

Registration forms and Cheques please send to:

Liz O'Sullivan 21 Third Street Adamstown 2283 Email liz266@gmail.com

DIRECTORY of DEANERIES, DEANERY CONTACTS and PARISH CONTACTS

IMPORTANT!

Please notify Diocesan Co-Lay Director

Editorial Committee if details

NEWCASTLE

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Adamstown	POSITION OPEN
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