

# The Encourager

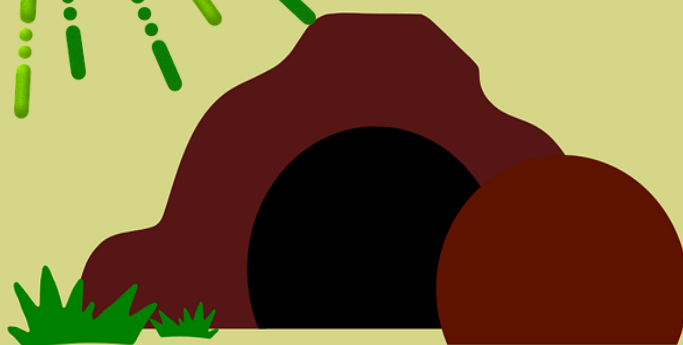


Print Post 100003359 Autumn 2024 - Number 117 Magazine of the Newcastle Cursillo Movement

**Autumn/Easter issue 2024**

...events, updates, news and  
sharing...

*Happy  
Easter*



*He is not here  
He is risen*

**Death could not hold Him!**



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## FROM OUR DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

FR MARK COOPER

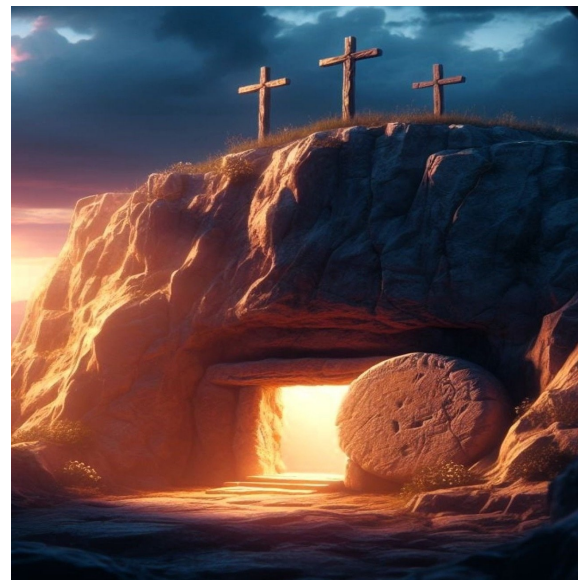


Is the Easter story too familiar for us to be surprised?

I love going to see Shakespeare's plays and I have seen my favourites many times. Secretly, when I go and see Romeo and Juliet, I think to myself "I wonder if the director will surprise us and change the ending?" Of course they never do. For many of us the Easter story is so well known that there is no surprise anymore for the resurrection. I sometimes think it would be interesting to change the ending and see if anyone notices.

"But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, there they saw the body of Jesus." Luke 24.1-3 (altered)

Put yourself in the shoes of those women on that first Easter morning, making their way to the tomb as the sun rises and finding the stone rolled away. There is a mix of emotions. Relief that there is no need to find someone to roll that stone away and fear that something horrible has happened. As they look into the tomb there before them are two men in dazzling white with a message "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen." How did they process this message? Did it sink in slowly? Did they discuss what this could possibly mean? Howsoever they came to their conclusion it spurred them to tell the apostles who didn't believe them; thinking this an idle tale.



We know how foolish this makes the apostles look but that is only because the story is so familiar to us. We have celebrated many Easters, and have been making the connection between Jesus' teaching about his death and resurrection every time we read it.

This Easter, try to come at the reading afresh. Walk down to the tomb with the women who are not really sure how they will fulfil their task. Look nervously into the place where Jesus was laid mere days before. Listen to the dazzling white men as they tell you that Jesus is risen. Race to the apostles only to be disbelieved. Then as you leave your church, look for glimpses of Jesus breaking into our world, bringing the good news that the kingdom of God is near, so near you can almost reach out and touch it.

De Colores,  
**Fr Mark Cooper**



## MONTHLY CURSILLO PRAYER DIARY

Pray everyday for Bishop Peter  
along with our Assistant Bishops Sonia and Charlie

- 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 Lee Weissel
- Day 6 National Webmaster - Shirley Tongue
- Day 7 World Cursillo Community
- Day 8 Diocesan Co-Lay Director - Lorraine Phillips
- 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 - Wendy Seddon
- Day 16 Servant Community Coordinator - Sue Royal
- Day 17 Diocesan Proctor and Copyright Coordinator - Brian Taylor
- Day 18 'The Encourager' Editor - Susie Foster
- 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 - MW51 Lyn Wickham
- Day 28 Prayers for combined Cursillo men's and women's weekend
- 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

Geoff Wooden & Lorraine Phillips

This is my first message to you as Co-Lay Director and as I write this I have just come from a committee meeting to organise the National Secretariat meeting in October 2024. We will be holding the Diocesan Ultreya to coincide with this meeting; more information to follow. We will also be holding a **combined** Men's and Women's 3 Day Cursillo in August at the Rathmines Conference Centre. This will be a bit of a challenge but I am sure Lyn Wickham and her team for MW51 will be up for it. Please pray for Lyn as she puts her team together.

I am looking forward to serving as your Co-Lay Director for the next three years with the help of God's grace and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

*From Lorraine*

The Newcastle Secretariat will be providing a presentation at the National Secretariat meeting in October which Lorraine mentioned, and it will be along the lines of "Cursillo in Newcastle, what is working and what is not". Our upcoming first combined Men's and Women's Cursillo is going to be a bit of a topic, as we see how it works, and what challenges we need to address.

At Clausura, Candidates mostly agreed that Cursillo is working. And the young people who attend typically thanks God sincerely for the experience. But young candidates are rare. And Candidates of any age are not in large numbers. In the early days we were running two Men's and two Women's Cursillos each year. Not now.

At Secretariat we are looking at nuts and bolts of the weekend itself (talk durations, breaks, adjustments for mixed weekends etc). But there is a wider conversation required. The Tasmanian Diocese put up some ideas and Noelene mentioned some at the Diocesan Ultreya last year. A challenge is that many were "don't" ideas – don't use Spanish, don't sing De Colores, don't use the Rainbow symbol, don't have so many talks. Do use more modern hymns.

"Horror" I hear you say. "I love singing a silly nursery rhyme about chickens and rainbows". The challenge is we need to market ourselves better. We need the package to present better to a younger demographic. Mostly, if they come, then they come away pleased. The point of my ramble is that Secretariat is going to run a workshop in July for everyone to have a say and make suggestions and hopefully work out how we can market God's love and grace better to a world that so sorely needs a lot of both. Secretariat wants to benefit from your wisdom and then present to the National Secretariat. Watch the website for details.

*De Colores, Geoff*

# New Secretariat Members 2024



## SUE ROYAL

I grew up in Adamstown and attended St. Stephens Anglican Church Sunday school, GFS and YAF. Married to Robert Royal at 19 years and moved from Newcastle to Melbourne. We have three children; Elizabeth, James and Olivia. Our son is married to Sharon and I have three grandchildren who live in Perth. Elizabeth and Olivia live in Canberra.

I have been a Christian for as long as I can remember, and know my fraternal and maternal Grandmothers both prayed for all their grandchildren, but I did not begin to know Jesus until attending Cursillo in 1992, W7, Newcastle Diocese. Jesus had always been with me, but I knew His presence after that weekend.

Being part of Secretariat as a member of the Servant Community is a new experience for me. So, much to learn and I shall endeavour to continue the excellent work of those before me with God's help.

Ultreya!



## WENDY SEDDON

Hello, I am Wendy Seddon. Married to Peter, mum to two lovely girls, stepmother to three boys and a total of 10 grandchildren.

Family is everything to me. I love all things creative from bush poetry, to reading and a myriad of craft activities. I am allergic to arithmetic and exercise, although I did enjoy tennis until uncle Aurthur (arthritis) came along!

I enjoy life and the adventures and challenges that come my way fuel my growth.

Nana jokes are easy, but logic can be a foreign concept.

Ultreya!





## FROM OUR **NEW** DIOCESAN CO-LAY DIRECTOR

Lorraine Phillips

Hello, my name is Lorraine Phillips, W19 at Lochinvar, table of Elizabeth (I think). I am your new Co-Lay Director on Secretariat. My Cursillo involvement began with W19 in 1997 followed by being a team member in 4 other weekends and then the great honour of serving our amazing God as LD for W49. And now I have been given the great honour of being Diocesan Co-Lay Director.

I have been married to Lance for almost 54 years, and we have four great kids and six beautiful grandchildren. We worship at St John's Raymond Terrace and we have lived here on and off for 38 years. Lance being in the RAAF we moved backwards and forwards between here, Canberra and Queensland, finally settling in Raymond Terrace in 1997 following Lance's medical discharge from the RAAF.

After finishing the EFM course I enrolled at Newcastle Uni to study Theology. I gained my degree in 2015. Life is busy with Mothers' Union, Anglican Women, Cursillo and being a Chalice Assistant in the parish.

In my down time I like to do embroidery and cross stitch, not that I have done much lately; I also love to read and watch TV. I love chocolate, potato chips and my favourite meal is Fillet Mignon.

During all this I know that I have been carried in the arms of our Lord Jesus Christ and nothing is impossible with Him as our guide and protector.

De Colores

Lorraine Phillips, W19





# Diary Dates for 2024

**Men's and Women's 51:** Lay Director: Lyn Wickham. August 22, 23, 24 & 25  
Venue: Catalina

**Commissioning Date:** 25 May, @ Cardiff

**Training Days:** 15 June, 22 June, 13 July, 27 July, 10 August @ Cardiff

**Welcome Day:** 14 September, Venue TBA

## Secretariat Meetings New Lambton @7pm

2 April, 7 May, 4 June, 2 July, 6 August, 3 September, 1 October,  
5 November ( with Bishop), 3 December - Christmas Tea.

## Diocesan Events 2024

**Women Celebrating our Faith:** 7 September 2024, at St. John's Raymond Terrace

**Diocesan Ultreya:** 26 October, Venue TBC

**National Conference:** 25 to 27 October, Venue TBC

## Ultreya Dates 2024

### **Lake Macquarie Deanery Ultreyas:**

Sunday 26 May, 1.30pm for 2pm, St. Thomas, 3 Thomas Street, Cardiff

Sunday 28 July, 1.30pm for 2pm, Southlakes Church, 33 Newcastle Street, Morisset

**Merewether:** combined with the Cathedral and Cooks Hill, Saturday 15 June, 2pm

**New Lambton:** Friday 12 July, 6pm

**Kotara:** Friday 4 October 6pm.

### **A note of encouragement for the sharing of prayer requests**

In our discussion at a recent Servant Community Meeting for Newcastle, it was noted that we have not had many prayer requests so far this year. As a committee we all commented on the value of being able to share our requests; thanksgivings as well as intercessions. We are fortunate in having a system that responds very quickly to our requests for prayer. Scripture encourages us to pray. In fact, Paul uses a conditional statement when he writes to the Philippians "If you want peace then you need to pray"<sup>6</sup>*Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*<sup>7</sup>*And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Phil 4.6-7)(NRSV)*

Our Committee would warmly encourage us to share our prayer requests as we feel appropriate. These can be forwarded to [alisonwooden@bigpond.com](mailto:alisonwooden@bigpond.com)



# FROM OUR DIOCESAN SPIRITUAL ADVISER

REVEREND JUDY WALSH



## Easter Message

Let me ask you: “What does Easter mean to you?”

If I were to ask a person in the street, they would likely tell me it was a four day holiday weekend! However, if I asked you that question, I’m sure as a Christian you would answer “to remember that Jesus died on the cross for our sins and on the third day he rose again” and we are comforted by the words in John’s Gospel when Jesus spoke to Thomas and said:

***“Because you have seen me, you have believed, blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”***

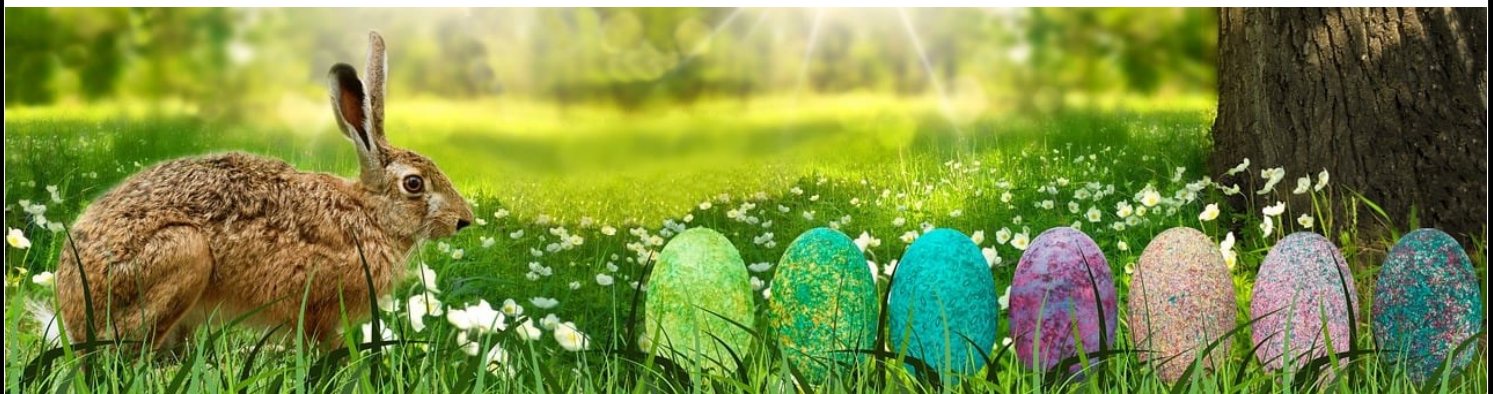
Let me ask you another question: “Why do we have Easter eggs at Easter?” There is no doubt the egg represents new life and when Jesus rose again on that third day he received that new life and one day we also will receive that new life with Christ.



So my final question is” “Why do we have Easter bunnies?” and I’ll admit even I had to stop and think about this one! But in my research, I found some interesting information about the inclusion of the ‘bunny’ in the Easter celebration. Both the egg and the bunny represent new life and fertility which leads to new growth, and in the ancient German Lutheran culture they believed the “Easter Hare” played the role of evaluating children – whether they were good or disobedient in their behaviour!

May God bless each one of you as you celebrate Easter this year and share God’s love with your family and friends.

**De Colores! Rev’d Judy [W34]**





**ANGLICAN WOMEN DIOCESAN  
QUIET DAY  
AT THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF  
ST JOHN'S RAYMOND TERRACE**

45 STURGEON STREET

**Conducted by:** The Rev'd Canon Stephen Niland

**Date:** Tuesday, 26th March 2024

**Time:** 9:30am until 3:00pm

**Please bring your own lunch!**



“Our flower this year is lavender which represents: silence, purity, devotion, serenity, grace, and calmness”

**Theme: “What does the Lord require of you”**

**Sentence of Scripture: Micah 6:8**

Enquiries: Lorraine Phillips 0419 277 294 or Marea Niland 0412 065 708

**ALL WOMEN OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH, FRIENDS AND  
VISITORS ARE WELCOME.**



## A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

# SUSIE FOSTER

I hope this Easter/Autumn issue finds you all well and you had a good start to the new year. I don't know about you, but this year has gone very fast for me already. I can't believe we are a quarter through the year.

As I am rushing to finalise this issue of the Encourager I am reminded of my intentions to spend more time with God in stillness, study and prayer. This Lent I was determined to be in a better routine, but I have so many competing priorities that it's increasingly hard to fit everything in and at times I know I don't have my priorities right. I have the desire to spend more time with God in quiet reflection, but I am failing miserably. I know I am not the only one who struggles to juggle work, family, other commitments and really putting God first—not just rush to church, but really put God first.



My prayer for any of us who struggle with “busyness” is that God may calm us and give us the wisdom to find a way to slow down and spend time in His presence every day, listening and sitting with him in quiet contemplation, knowing his love and peace which He wants to give us.

*Amen.*

**SWANSEA ULTREYA 25 FEBRUARY 2024**

We had a great time of worship at the Ultreya in St Peter's church, with 24 people in attendance. The Lay Director for the afternoon was Bethany Wooden, Gwen Vale was the Muso, and Ameera Hale gave the witness talk. Ameera shared that when Rev'd Wooden approached her to give the witness talk, she wasn't at all keen. Alison suggested she pray about it, but Ameera really didn't want to do it. Then over the next couple of weeks, random thoughts about things she could mention in her talk popped into her head. And on one occasion she even started singing 'I serve a risen Saviour'.

Ameera decided that God was prompting her to give a witness talk. She spoke about growing up in New Zealand in the Seventh Day Adventist Church and how God led her to meet Christians from other denominations. As they shared their experiences from their faith journeys, they realised how much they had in common. Ameera commented that her recent experience of God in her life was recognising his prompting and guidance to share her story. Rev'd Alison, as Spiritual Advisor, reflected on Paul's reminder that 'there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!' (Col 3.11)

The afternoon concluded in the church hall with light refreshments and a time of fellowship, catching up with Cursillistas from neighbouring parishes. De Colores!





# ULTREYA

**CENTRAL COAST DEANERY ULTREYA 24 FEBRUARY 2024**

HOLY FAMILY, WYOMING



Exactly 20 people responded to the invitation to celebrate the first Ultreya for 2024. They came from north, east and southern parishes. Some lunched together, before Marion McGregor and Bruce Fraser welcomed the company, and led the singing accompanied by Cate Ewin.

We were thankful to Marian French who witnessed to her transformation along the way from a chrysalis of potential in her consistent belief in God, to an unfolding of truths in her life by returning to church; and her experiences of Father, Son and Holy Spirit through enrolling for Cursillo 39 (Table of Elizabeth), and in the resulting Group Reunions and Ultreyas. Responses from listeners showed appreciation for Marian's sharing of her journey to freedom. Revd Rosemary Gillham affirmed Marian and her quote of God's presence in Isaiah, and in St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians.

Floating Group Reunion met with a humm of prayer and sharing. Noeline Darcy thanked Wyoming for their hospitality and accepted donations and annual dues to Secretariat. All enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea, unwilling to curtail the catching up to be done.

PS: It is an enormous pleasure to have Jean Jackson share our Group Reunions and Ultreyas with such enthusiasm in her 101st year.

De Colores, Helen Fraser

## **Farewell Jackie**

The loss of our dear friend, member of our Parish family and the Cursillo family has been felt very deeply.

Jackie's funeral was a wonderful tribute to the love of music which was such a large part of her life.

Jackie was the Director of Music and organist at St John's Cessnock for many years. She was a choir mistress to the church choir and other local choirs over time.

Jackie loved being involved in Cursillo weekends and Ultreyas as a very skilled muso for the teams.

We will miss you. Rest in peace dear friend.

Celebration  
of Life



## CURSILLO WEEKEND 2024

This year our Diocese will hold one weekend only: MW51. This will be a combined (men and women) weekend. Combined weekends have run successfully in various Dioceses throughout Australia, as well as in Hong Kong. The rising costs associated with holding a Cursillo Weekend has been the influencing factor leading to a combined weekend.

As Lay Director for MW51, I encourage you to seek support from your parish to assist candidates meet the cost of attending the weekend. Your prayerful support for moving in this new direction of a combined weekend is most valued.

Application forms for MW51 will be on our website shortly at [www.cursillonewcastle.org.au/about-us/forms/](http://www.cursillonewcastle.org.au/about-us/forms/)

Dates: August 22, 23, 24 & 25  
Venue: Catalina, Rathmines

Lyn Wickham,  
Lay Director MW51



## WOMEN CELEBRATING OUR FAITH 2024

Welcome to 2024 and the great news that we will be celebrating WCOF on Saturday 7th September 2024 at Saint John's Anglican Church in Raymond Terrace.

There were some great suggestions last year for our workshops and ideas of how the programme should run. Look forward to a great time of fellowship in September!

Please save the date and keep an eye out for further information in the months ahead.

God bless you all my sisters in Christ. May you all have a blessed Easter.

Your sister in Christ, Cheryl Cooper



# **DIRECTORY OF DEANERIES, DEANERY CONTACTS & PARISH CONTACTS**

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*Please notify  
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or the Editor  
if details change.*

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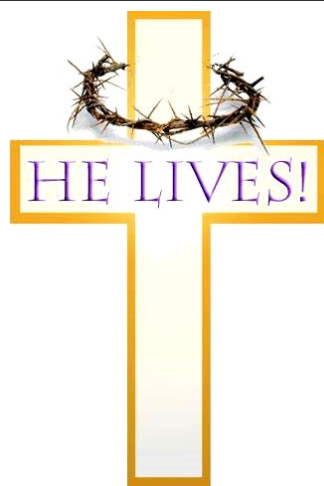
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