

Anglican Cursillo Movement — Southern Queensland Diocese

www.cursillo-brisbane.com

December 2023 CHRISTMAS EDITION



Secretariat 2023

Secretariat	2023		
Episcopal Overseer	The Rt. Rev. Cam Venables, Bishop of the Western Region		
Diocesan Spiritual Adviser	Rev. Pauline Harley ema	Mobile: 0407 676 917 ail: Pauline.Harley@anglicanchurchsq.org.au	
Diocesan Lay Director	Margaret Carr 167 Allenby Road Wellington Point 4160	Mobile: 0408 780 587 email: marg.carr@optusnet.com.au	
Secretary	Margaret Peterson 11 Jefferies Place Sandstone Point 4511	Mobile: 0428 656 171 email: jeff.marg.peterson@bigpond.com	
Treasurer	Ann Martin-Victor	Mobile: 0407 029 989 email: annmv@tpg.com.au	
Pre-Cursillo Registrar	Dianne Catto	Mobile: 0408 776 278 email: dianne.catto@gmail.com	
Post-Cursillo Coordinator	Awaiting appointment		
Music Copyright Coordinator	Leigh Leighton 106/500 South Street Glenvale 4350	Mobile: 0419 647 306 leigh5212@gmail.com	
Database Coordinator	Alan Gray 2/58 Wuth Street Darling Heights Toowoomba 4350	Mobile 0425 288 985 email: alangray48@icloud.com	
Resources Coordinator	Awaiting appointment		
Diocesan Servant Community	Nick Crisp 9 Iluka St, Manly West 4179	Mobile 0481 356 844 email: ne700crisp@gmail.com	
OWLE Editor	Gay Clark P O Box 3274 Birkdale 4159	Mobile 0411 148 240 email: robgay.clark@gmail.com	
Webmaster	Peter Victor	Mobile 0428 567 466 email: petervictor@bigpond.com	

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A Message from the Diocesan Spiritual Advisor

Earlier in the year a church acquaintance was telling me about her RI class at the local school. They had been talking about the Day of Pentecost and had

read that great text from Acts 2; you know the one that tells how the disciples were all together in one place when – 'suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind ... divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them ability' (Acts 2:2-4 ed.) *Great theme* I said. Yes, she replied *and of course I stopped the reading at verse 12.*

My mouth gaped. What, I stammered. Why?

You know what boys are like, she said. And she is right, I do know what boys are like. I also know that the verse she was too timid and precious to share with the class was one that shows the dynamic impact the touch of the Holy Spirit has on people and the flow on effect to those around them.

No doubt about it, the Holy Spirit, ignites speech, enflames action, awakens hope and bestows a desire to share God's dream for creation.

I was reminded of this snippet when I had the privilege of attending the closing service for MW82 in September this year. Just one of the perks of the role!

I'd seen the group when they gathered on Thursday night – a typical group of church attendees – men and women who'd accepted a challenge to spend the weekend in an intentional Christian setting. They were happy to be there, but nothing in their demeanour would have prepared me, or them, for the radical change in them by Sunday afternoon.

HE

They appeared, as Evangelist Luke tells it in the Acts of the Apostles, as if they were filled with

new wine (Acts 2:13). They were ecstatic. The surprising power of the Holy Spirit was bubbling out of them. They fizzed. They knew the great truth that they had the power and the authority to do the job God has called them to do. They were ready and eager to spread the Good News. I liken the team to midwives and the new Cursillistas as the newly born, now released to the ongoing care of their sponsors and church families to keep the flame burning and the love flowing.

I'm writing this in November and we're fast approaching the

mystical days of Christmas – celebrating the unlikely birth of Jesus in that backwater of the Roman Empire and I'd like to encourage you to ask yourselves, echoing Meister Eckhart, What good is it to me if Mary gave birth to the Son of God 1400 years ago (or over 2000 now) and I do not give birth to the Son of God in my own person and time and culture..... We are all meant to be mothers of God.

I wish you all joy as you continue to make God manifest – to rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit as you give birth to the presence of God in your family and community. God grant you a holy and blessed Christmas.

De Colores.

Valerie



Powering UP! Powering ON! Into the future.



I'd like to start with a huge thank you to those who were able to attend the extraordinary meeting at St Alban's on September 24. You will be delighted to hear that many of the responses given at that meeting were echoed in discussions from other Dioceses at the National Secretariat meeting in Sunbury, Victoria from October 26 – 29. The fact that we have had that positive discussion, complete with a renewed agreement that Cursillo in Southern Queensland needs some necessary changes to meet the needs of prospective candidates, puts our diocese ahead in being proactive. Bp Cam

has endorsed the need for change and encouraged us to try new approaches. Thank you also to those who emailed me with suggestions to make Cursillo sustainable into the future. Please keep sending me your thoughts or speak to someone on Secretariat. Some dioceses have not started that discussion yet. Let's keep the conversation going. A short summary of points raised is in this OWLE for your information. Marg and Peter attended the meeting, whilst Kay Self was commissioned by Bishop Ian Palmer (National Episcopal Advisor) as

National Secretary. Congratulations to Kay.



During the weekend, much discussion about moving Cursillo forward occurred. Here are two points to discuss in your parish:

- 1. A general makeover and rebranding of Cursillo. Keep the message / package but change the packaging.
- 2. Renaming Cursillo to avoid the old stigma that Cursillo is a secret society, etc. Other denominations have renamed their faith weekends.

Nothing is going to change immediately, but change is coming and, God willing, it will be for the better of the movement. One diocese changed the name of 'The Fourth Day' talk to 'The Way Ahead' making it more 'user friendly'. This was received favourably at their weekend. Any alterations must be in line with keeping the authenticity of Cursillo.

As Melbourne Secretariat is in recess, National Cursillo organised a day of encouragement for all Cursillistas inviting them to a Regener8 day. Approximately 30 Melbourne Cursillistas attended. That was an interesting and fruitful experience. The programme included singing, talks about Lay Ministry and looking ahead as well as excellent opportunities for dialogue for all in attendance. The day finished with a celebratory dinner.

Our diocese is hoping to host the 2026 National meeting, so that's a special event for us all to look forward to. Our delegates also led Friday 'Prayer at the End of the Day' and presented a "Show and Tell" PowerPoint that explained our initiatives in promotional work including the information stall at Synod and at St Francis' Festival, held at the Theological College, Fourth Day/Post Cursillo activities incorporating Zoom group reunions, Ultreyas, the OWLE magazine and Jottings newsletter, Pilgrimages and social media engagement.

Congratulations to our new Cursillistas from MW82 and to the team led by Carolyn Smith. This first combined weekend will not be our last as it was considered an overwhelming success. Well

As I said last time, Secretariat and Diocesan Servant Community are totally focussed and passionate about Cursillo however we cannot do it aloneSO.... keep Powering UP and **Powering ON!** Let's do it together!

> I wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a wonderful New Year. De Colores, Marg Carr (W33, 1993) Diocesan Lay Director

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Message from The Editor

We are back home after 3 months and 22,000 kms in the camper. How blessed were Rob and I to see so much – amazing flowers, beautiful fish and stunning land formations!



In this issue, I have endeavoured to give an overview of MW82 from different aspects. There are the Proctors' organisational points of view; Gail's first-time team member's account; Ailsa's comparison with her previous experience and some thoughts from sponsors. Sally's account of Follow up Day includes some very happy photos. All in all, MW82 was indeed a resounding success and a blessing to all who were involved.

Our Lay Director, Marg, hosted the very well attended, extraordinary meeting on the Cursillo weekend. Her feedback is informative, hopeful and challenging. If you missed out on giving your opinions or have any further suggestions, I know she'd love to hear from you. The Diocesan Ultreya showed more of Marg's creativity as she presented each of the retiring team members with a special song and a rainbow umbrella. Please keep Marg in your prayers as she battles health issues while still going full steam ahead for Cursillo.

We have locked in the date for next year's pilgrimage and plan to take the camper. The last one we went on, was so much fun! Thank you Sally for all the phone calls, emails and mileage to help bring this pilgrimage together.

I have tried to include as many Christmas trees as possible in this issue to get you in the mood, to help remind you to prepare spiritually. Desley, Bob & Mark send Christmas blessings from the Holy Hermits to all and encourage you to revisit "The Fox at the Manger", a charming tale by PL Travers.

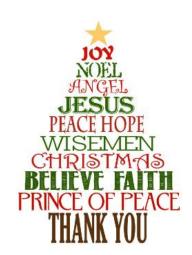
However you share the Christmas story, whoever you invite to the Christmas services or share your Christmas table with, may joy and peace be with you and those you love.





Send articles to: The Editor, P O Box 3274, Birkdale 4159
robgay.clark@gmail.com

M 0411 148 240



Edition	Cut-off Date for Articles	Email/Publish Date
Lent/Easter Edition 2024 March	17 th February	16 th March
Winter Edition 2024 June	25 th May	15 th June
Spring Edition 2024 September	31st August	21st September
Christmas Edition 2024 December	27 th November	7 th December

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Sally's Pre-Cursillo Update

With MW82 behind us, my focus is now on the pilgrimage. I may have been decommissioned as the Pre-Cursillo Registrar, but having begun the planning for next year's pilgrimage, I am eager to see it through.

PILGRIMAGE 2024

This self drive pilgrimage has been planned for the long weekend in May, $4^{th} - 6^{th}$. The theme is **Journey in Faith**. It is open to everyone, not just Cursillistas. We are starting at Grovely and heading west. While all the venues have not been finalised yet, the pilgrimage is definitely going ahead, so keep that weekend free.



When all the details have been finalised, a list of accommodation will be suggested so you can choose and book for yourselves. Take your caravan or share the road trip with friends. There is a scavenger hunt planned along the way so it should be a lot of fun.

We will share meals with other parishes along the way, swell their numbers at the Sunday service and enjoy that fellowship that comes with sharing God's love.

Hebrews 11: Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

Pre-Cursillo Registrar Sally Turnbull Ph:0457820068 Email: sallyerrol@bigpond.com

Address:11 Birkett Street. Chinchilla 4413.





Greetings from Post Cursillo



Blessings and Prayers for Christmas from Kay Self

May I wish all Cursillistas in the Diocese of Southern Queensland a holy, happy and safe Christmas and Cursillo filled 2024 and give thanks to God for the opportunity of being the Post Cursillo Coordinator for the past 3 years. The opportunity to serve my God in this way has enriched my life. *ONWARD & UPWARD*

Upcoming Ultreyas in 2024

Please put the following Ultreyas into your diaries

Bundaberg West 2nd March Good Shepherd

Toowoomba West 8th June St Alban's

1:00 pm BYO lunch from 12 noon

Bribie Island TBA

Bayside TBA

Freshwater 12th October Church of the Risen Christ, Deception Bay

1:00 pm BYO lunch from 12 noon

Sherwood 2nd November St Matthew's, Sherwood

Diocesan Ultreya





What a celebration! Cursillistas came from far and wide to St Matthew's, Sherwood. The happy buzz from old and new friends catching up, could be heard at lunchtime. The theme was "The Voice". From the first song, when Howard, Tony and Fran led us with their rousing music, our voices melded as one. Ian Carr's witness talk was extremely moving as he shared how he had listened to God's voice throughout his life. Bishop Cam's reflection provided extra insight and encouraged us all to listen for His voice.

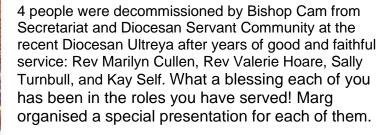
Thank you, Sherwood for hosting. Your generous hospitality was much appreciated.















At the time of publication, the roles of Spiritual Adviser to DSC, Pre-Cursillo Coordinator, as well as Lay Director for the 2024 Cursillo have not been appointed. If you have any interest in any of these positions, please contact Marg Carr.



Diocesan Servant Community

Thanks to DSC members and volunteers who did a great job organising the closing for MW82. There is always more than expected to do as things don't always go to plan, but the end result was successful and there were many hands to help.

Another of the DSC roles is to promote interest in Cursillo. As well as showing the flag and banners at the festival of St Francis, our DSC members have been out and about at churches other than their own. This has resulted in a few people including a member of clergy actively seeking involvement in Cursillo. Praise the Lord!

Ultreya Nick Crisp



Follow Up Day by Sally Turnbull

Garry and Sandra Franks did an awesome job, organising and leading the follow up day for MW82 on Saturday 21st October 2023. It was held in St Augustine's Church Hall at Rockville, Toowoomba and was well attended by candidates and their sponsors. It was a delight to see the new Cursillistas catching up with new friends.

Leanne Goodall provided fabulous music on the keyboard and the combined voices of the men and women made the hall resound with beautiful harmonies. Thanks also to Ian Carr who did a great job providing data presentation.

How blessed we were to have Rev Rick Gummow for prayers and a thought-provoking talk on Spiritual direction. The table leaders gave informative talks on group reunions, the upcoming pilgrimage, ultreyas, Secretariat and Diocesan Servant Community.

With the follow up day information, the new Cursillistas will be even better equipped for their fourth day.













FROM THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

SEPTEMBER 24 at St Alban's.

26 very keen Cursillistas eagerly discussed their thoughts about how Cursillo needs to be upgraded and modernised to

meet the future. Questions met with some excellent responses, many of which are doable while some will need us to upskill to achieve. All agreed that we need more input from lay and ordained Cursillistas. A summary of main points raised, is below for you to peruse.

- 1. WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES WE HAVE? Using technology more effectively, shortage of musicians, distance and cost of travel/accommodation at venues for sponsors, some clergy who have not done Cursillo do not value its impact, cost of weekend, how to touch Gen "Z"? Getting a team together can be hard, lack of people for team and candidates.
- 2. HOW CAN WE MEET THE CHALLENGES? WHAT NEEDS TO

CHANGE? Mix it up – not just talks and posters = different types of learning, one site for all Cursillo Weekends that is central, Cursillo Influencers to create podcasts/YouTube to go on the web, use technology including prerecording some talks, modernising in many areas – music, style of worship, shorter talks with more discussion, offer billets to sponsors, raise funds for candidates, encourage clergy and formation students to do Cursillo, seek feedback from past candidates. Upgrade and update.

- 3. **WHAT IS WORKING?** Fundraising in some parishes, open discussions and invitations to others to join parish Group Reunions, Cursillo breakfasts every fortnight, committees are working hard, good communication from Marg.
- 4. WHAT IS NOT WORKING? Posters get rid of them, too schoolish, need to modernise.



NEW IDEAS/SUGGESTIONS - Reduce length to two nights, starting on Friday, shorter and different weekend format, combined Cursillo is good, posters to be cut down or out, delete some talks, change title of weekends to #83 rather than MW, needs to appeal to younger folk, Weekend of Prayer, Prayer Chain coverage with prayer partners, educate and encourage Cursillistas to offer on Secretariat/Servant Community/team rather than wait to be asked, make a pack of Cursillo material to be presented to Ordinands, reduce paperwork, podcasts of what Cursillo is and isn't? Be more open and visible in parishes, scale down meditations, chapels, overlapping talks.

These are just some of the points raised. If you would like to send your thoughts in, email marg.carr@optusnet.com.au or any other Secretariat member.



From the mouths of babes....

My granddaughter Claire was helping me to put up the Christmas decorations. As we placed the wreath on our front door, she said, "Grandma, do you know why wreaths are a circle? It's because they are to remind us that God's love is never ending. No beginning and no end."

As we come towards the end of another year, in the midst of all the rush and preparation for the celebration of our Saviour coming to be born into our lives, may we find **Time** to look back with grateful hearts for blessing of God's unending love and faithfulness.

As some of those who have served our Cursillo movement in this Diocese come to the end of their commitment, so others will take up their opportunity to lead and to serve.

At this time, I find myself looking back over the past 3 years, grateful for the privilege of serving as spiritual advisor to our servant community. I encourage others to prayerfully consider offering to be part of the servant community, whose role is one of practical support and encouragement.

Revelation 1:8
Jesus said.
I am the alpha and the omega (the beginning and the end)
Who is, Who was, and Who is to come.

His promise,

And surely I am with you always, to the end of the age. Matthew 28:20

Ends are not bad they just mean something new is about to begin.

Reverend Marilyn Cullen W25





By Proctors 1 &2 Alan and Sharyn Gray

MW82 was a Cursillo of firsts. It was the first time we had used the Glennie School as a venue for a 3 day weekend. In the run up to the weekend, their security protocols made it difficult for us to be prepared for the event when the day finally came. We had no knowledge of the layout and electronics of the main conference room where we would spend most of our time, until the day before the Cursillo. This led to a few things going wrong during the weekend, however it was all taken within our stride and we all just got on with it. At this point, our thanks must go to Ms Sandra Strenzel from Glennie for her efforts to make the weekend work for us.

The Team accommodation was on the top floor of Brown House with the Candidates on the lower floor of the same building. Being an all-girls' school there was only one set of toilets & showers on each floor. We had thought this wouldn't be satisfactory, but there were no problems at all. This showed the comradeship of Team & Candidates alike.

Rev Pauline, with her internet and PowerPoint skills, took control of creating everything "Clergy" digitally on the TV in the Chapel and the Data projector in the main work area. Another first! This was tremendously valuable, not only for the process of the Cursillo, but also for not having to have the Prayer books, song books and Together in Song on site for any part of the Cursillo. This was a lot of heavy carrying avoided. Rev Pauline is making the USB of her work available for future Cursillos.

It was the first mixed Cursillo for this Diocese. Secretariat had consulted with other Dioceses who had held combined Mens' and Womens' Cursillos. There was a good mix of male and female leaders and candidates and all joined in well. Rev David brought regular laughter to the group with his never-ending repertoire of funny jokes that kept us all entertained. Over the whole weekend, there was an air of happiness, comradeship, and that development of love for our Lord, which is what the weekend is all about.

Would we recommend another combined Mens' and Womens' Cursillo?



PLANT A PERFECT SUMMER GARDEN



Firstly plant five rows of peas - preparedness, perseverance, politeness, promptness, and prayer.

Next to them plant three rows of squash - squash indifference, squash gossip, and squash criticism.

No garden is complete without a turnip - please turn up at meetings, turn up with a smile, and turn up with determination.

Then plant three precious rows of lettuce - let us be truthful, let us be loyal, and let us love one another.



"I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

This was the theme of my Cursillo -W46 - 1999. Attending Cursillo this year on team for MW82, has reinforced the message that we are loved and God does have a purpose for everyone.

Arriving as a candidate at W46 in 1999, I, (like most of us) felt uncertain and perhaps anxious about what was

going to unfold over the weekend ahead. As the weekend programme got going, there was so much happening the whole time – talks, discussions, meditations, singing, worship, fun and fellowship. By Sunday evening it was a struggle to remember it all. (Lack of sleep over the busy weekend probably added to this struggle.)

Being on team for MW82 in 2023 and participating in the months of preparation really opened up to me what this short course in Christian Living has to offer. The theme for MW82 was Faith, Hope & Love, and how well that fitted with the love and fellowship I experienced during the weekend. As I journey on my fourth day and continue to help build Christian Communities around me, that love and fellowship will be there. Taking time to participate in small groups can provide us all with encouragement to persevere in Christian life and cut through all the "noise" around us. This has been my big take away message from MW82.

As Ecclesiastes Ch 4 V 9 & 109) say ⁹ Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labour: ¹⁰ If either of them falls down, one can help the other up. But pity anyone who falls and has no one to help them up.

In the 20+ years since I attended Cursillo as a candidate much has happened in the world – we are in a new millennium, 9/11 happened, the Global Financial Crisis, the Covid Pandemic, and much more - plus, we have widespread use of the internet and social media. The world we live in now is completely different from then.

So, while it is difficult to compare my experience at W46 in 1999 to MW82 in 2023, the theme prayer from W46 is still perfect to pray in today's world –

Loving God, you have commanded us to love you with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and to love our neighbours as ourselves. Open our eyes Lord to see the needs of others. Give us ears to listen with patience and compassion; make us aware of the pain and injustice that surrounds us, and help us to bring love and comfort to all we encounter day by day, for it is in welcoming a stranger that we welcome you. In Jesus name. Amen.

Ultreya Ailsa Gill





Having been the only Cursillista in my parish of Allora/Clifton, I have been keen to encourage others to attend a weekend and become part of the Cursillo movement. This year I was excited when someone accepted my invitation.

My joy was compounded when I was asked to go on team as it was the first time since I had done my Curisillo W44A in 1998. Wow! Over the past two years my life and circumstances have been turned upside down and many a time I have found myself reaching for the hem of His garment. I felt the Holy Spirit calling and knew 'this was something that I could not refuse'. I did have

thoughts of in adequacy however I

took up the offer knowing that when God seeks me out, He has a plan, and He would walk with me all the way!

Being on team meant that I could not escort my candidate to Glennie for the Cursillo weekend. John and Jan Corcut from Warwick were generous in stepping up and offering to assist, thank you both so much! The training enabled me to feel comfortable as a table leader and give my talk. I was keen to be 'let go and allow God to lead me'.

It was interesting to watch new candidates arrive with enthusiasm and signs of apprehension, and the gradual changes over the ensuing 3 days. It was a BIG weekend with everyone participating in talks, activities, music and much laughter.

I was looking forward to coming away with the same 'Mountain Top' experience that I had some 20 years prior however this was not to be. Yes, I had a wonderful weekend, but my feelings were quite different. I was filled with an extreme Peace – being at peace with myself, knowing the presence of God in my life and circumstances.



Gail Fulton



"The LORD is

with me.

I will trust

and not be

afraid



A few sponsors from MW82 shared their experiences with me. First, they prayed about who to approach, then sought guidance from their parish priest, then came the personal invitation. Then of course, more prayer! Initially there was reluctance in most cases. However, for those people who agreed to become candidates, the sponsors unanimously agreed what a positive

experience it was for them and their new Cursillistas. One sponsor witnessed spiritual healing, another told how her two candidates have spoken at church to encourage more people to try Cursillo. Now they are looking around for who to ask next year.

Who will you ask?

REMINDER ABOUT CONTRIBUTIONS

Are you up to date with your contributions?

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Remember to email the Treasurer, Ann Martin-Victor, advising of your payment so that record keeping accuracy can be upheld. Also notify of any changes to your contact details eg. address, email address, mobile number etc.

Please mail the form to the Treasurer, (not the Database Coordinator or Editor). Please help us maintain accurate records by including all information on the form. Note: the name of the Parish is required, not the name of the church.

Many thanks
Ann Martin-Victor
Treasurer

Cursillo Treasurer PO Box 9265 Wynnum Plaza Qld 4178

Contact details for Ann, Cursillo Treasurer: email: cursillo sq@bigpond.com

mobile: 0407 029 989

Voluntary Annual Contribution \$........... Suggested contribution is \$20 per Cursillista

Donation

Your generosity is appreciated, THANK YOU! The love offering at the recent Diocesan Ultreya was \$611!

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Made payable to Anglican Cursillo Movement Brisbane.

- Electronic Funds Transfer: BSB: 704 901 Account: 00002640 (please note your name/s and what the deposit is for).
- BPoint online payment facility: refer to the Contributions tab on Cursillo Brisbane website https://cursillo-brisbane.com
- Cheques, Money Orders: mail to Cursillo Treasurer, details above
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If you make an online contribution or donation, please send an email to our Treasurer, Ann, for confirmation purposes.

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Ann Martin-Victor

Treasurer





Newsletter for the Anglican Cursillo Movement Diocese of Brisbane



'Those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar like eagles.' Isaiah 40.31

DECEMBER 2023CHRISTMAS EDITION

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