

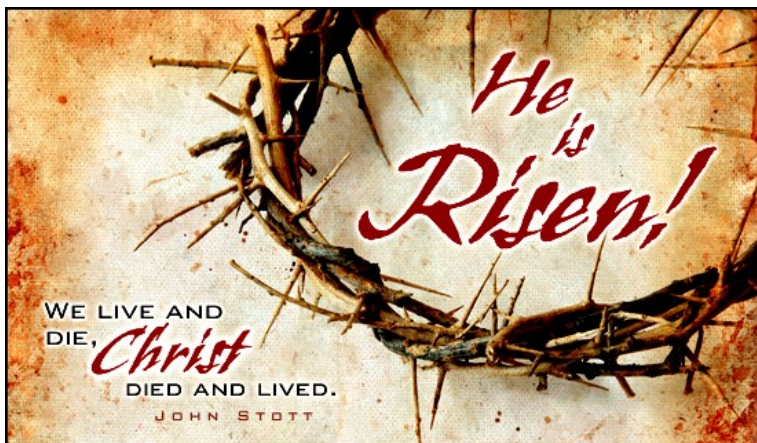


KIWI CURSILLO

*The Magazine for
New Zealand Anglican Cursillo*

Easter 2016

Issue 38



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THE NEXT DEADLINE FOR THE WINTER ISSUE IS FRIDAY JULY 15 2016.

The price of Kiwi Cursillo is \$10 a year for three magazines posted to you. If you would rather receive the magazine electronically please let us know. The cost of that is \$7.70 per year.

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National Episcopal Cursillo Website (USA)

www.nationalepiscopalcursillo.org

Read their 4th Day Magazine on-line;

Purchase NEC Libraries;

Check updates for NEC Library;

Check out resources available.

Other Websites: Wellington Cursillo Website - www.cursillo.org.nz
<http://www.crosswalkmail.com>
<http://www.bibleinoneyear.org/>
<http://www.biblegateway.com>

POSITIONS VACANT

NZACC has also established the position of **National Communications Officer**. The role is intended to supplement the Kiwi Cursillo magazine and to enable information about Cursillo to be communicated effectively to Cursillo people and others within the Church. The role will focus on maintaining an intentional communication strategy, ensuring timely and relevant communication, and creating a social media presence. If you are interested, please contact Anne Gover or David McLay.

National Lay Director

David McLay's term as NLD concludes in January 2017. NZACC seeks a lay person to fill this role. Secretariat experience is essential. Expressions of interest should be sent to Rev Sue Hogan by 15 April 2017, as NZACC wishes to announce the appointment at the National Ultreya in October 2016.

"Keep your eyes open, hold tight to your convictions, give it all you've got, be resolute, and love without stopping" (1 Corinthians 16:13–14).

When you first wake up to face a new day, *give it all you've got!*

When you're dealing with a tough challenge, *give it all you've got!*

When you need to make a difficult decision, *give it all you've got!*

When it's time to exercise and lift those weights, *give it all you've got!*

When you have to go on after a disappointment, *give it all you've got!*

When the day is long and you want to shut down, *give it all you've got!*

When a change is necessary and you must do it, *give it all you've got!*

When you lose someone close and have to go on, *give it all you've got!*

When the years pile up and you need to end well, *give it all you've got!*

Author unknown

FROM THE NATIONAL LAY DIRECTOR...

TIME TO CELEBRATE

The lectionary reading for 6 March was most of Luke Chapter 15. While our congregation was all reading this from pew bibles, I noticed Lk 15:32 may be read as follows:

... it was necessary to celebrate and to rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive; ...

If one substitutes Jesus for the prodigal son (and I acknowledge that is not really what is intended), this passage instructs us to celebrate and rejoice in the resurrection of Jesus. Remember that we are co-heirs with Jesus, so that he is our brother.

The KJV states: "It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad".

So I want to invite you all to do likewise (to celebrate): firstly on Easter Sunday and secondly at the National Ultreya in Christchurch in October.

I have been in celebration mode for a lot of the past month (as well as in early November when I attended the Dunedin Diocese's wonderful 15th Birthday Party). There have been five celebratory services:

Evensong and Confirmation Service at Wellington Cathedral which included farewelling the Diocesan Manager and commissioning the new Diocesan Manager;

My wife, Robyn, gave her final sermon (but probably not her last sermon) at Holy Trinity Avalon after 9 months as interim priest in charge,

a new Vicar, Rev Andrew Barlow, recently at St John's Roslyn in Dunedin, was installed at HTA;

Rev Charles Noanoa was farewelled from St Matthews Taita after 8 years as Community Priest with 100 people attending a Kaupapa Māori Communion Service before a meal and a poroporoaki (with waiata in support of most speakers);

Robyn's first service as Missioner to Taita.

The Study context for some of these services has been the Wellington Diocese's Lenten study **Generous Hospitality** by Wayne Kirkland.

Interestingly, each of these services was followed by sharing food. That

is what I refer to as the “Ministry of Food”.

However, I wish to raise a different point – worship styles. And this is the area where we Christians become possibly more passionate than rational.

It has been often mentioned by new Cursillo people that the songs used in the Weekend as well as at Ultreyas are dated and not contemporary. It seems to me that the Cursillo Songbook provides a “safe option” for our Three Day Weekends. However, there is a risk that its safety is its greatest weakness. The selection of songs by those of us past, in or nearing our sixties has often involved the choice of “old favourites”.

I am addressing this article to all Cursillo people in New Zealand, but I wish to raise it with NZACC (NZ Anglican Cursillo Council) in mid-April. Perhaps it is time for each Cursillo Secretariat to let the Cursillo Teams, particularly the Musicians, branch out and choose more contemporary songs.

I know that some Dioceses do not confine themselves to the Song Book at Ultreyas, and there has been a tradition of National Ultreyas having worship bands. I am looking forward to surprises (in music, worship, and teaching) at the National Ultreya in Christchurch in October – hopefully you are already planning to be there as well.

So going back to the celebrations of the past month, I need to stress that each service was unique. The same God was being worshipped but the music and the songs and the worship was different. We should not let our differences in worship get in the way of our relationship with God (aka Piety).

So to wrap up, I want to ask you all to celebrate and rejoice, to party like you are at the Prodigal Son’s Party and/or at the Great Banquet of Matt.22, both at Easter this year and at the National Ultreya. Or if you prefer “make merry and be glad”.

David McLay NLD

<p>I am conscious that this article might only be read by those who have already decided to attend the NU. So I invite you to put this article on the table at your next Group Reunion.</p>

FROM THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR...

A STORY FOR EASTER

Every year fantails visit our garden.

This year they seemed particularly busy, noisy and cheeky, darting around us and the cat as we disturbed the tiny insects they love to catch.

While we were delighted by all the activity, KitKat chose to ignore the birds, even though their flight took them dangerously close. After all he already had to endure sharing his breakfast with an impudent, rather scruffy male blackbird who in the last two years had declared himself “king of our backyard.”

“Why don’t we follow the fantails and see where they go?” Chiara, my granddaughter suggested.

They led us to a secluded part of the garden where a small nest was hanging, attached rather precariously to a slender camellia branch. And bobbing around in the nest were several tiny fluffy heads with open beaks waiting to be filled.

Chiara was captivated.

Every day, before and after school we would check on the “cute babies” until one morning, following a very stormy night, we discovered the nest was empty. Not a fantail, big or small to be seen. What had happened? We didn’t think the fledglings were old enough to fly. Had they been blown out of the nest? A cat couldn’t possibly have reached the nest.

We searched the ground, we even brought out the steps to climb and have a closer look. Nothing!

Chiara was devastated.

Although the garden continued to be filled with the sound of birds, something was missing. Then a few days later we heard a noise. The distinctive voice of fantails.

Chiara's face lit up. "They're back! Oh Nana, they're back!"

That afternoon she said, "let's make a book about the fantails." (She's big into making books) "It will be a really great story"

A great story indeed.

A story about life and growth, disappointment and despair, hope and joy.

A story for Easter.

As I write this the fantail's nest, small and beautifully made, sits on the desk in front of me. We rescued it after several wet and windy days.

An empty nest! An empty tomb!

For Christ has risen! He has risen indeed! Alleluia!

De Colores

Sue Hogan NSD



Waiapu Diocese

From Gail Spence, Diocesan Lay Director, Diocese of Waiapu

It was a Cursillo team training day, the last for Combined 4. Because of withdrawals Lay Director Christine Gaudin had approached me to fill a place on team. We were in Taupō on a beautiful autumn day, in the comfortable lounge of St Andrew's Anglican church, a dedicated group who had travelled from all corners of the Diocese to a place where we could meet in the middle, to Taupō.

Christine invited me to suggest a favourite song we could all sing. I heard myself say: *Whakarongo ki te kupu* - Listen to the word. The name of this song flew out of my mouth, taking me by surprise. We have the te reo Māori version taped inside the back cover of our Songbooks. We could all sing it. And we did – joyfully!

Why was this song on the tip of my tongue? I pondered this. I really love the way we are instructed to listen. Effectively, we are being told to listen, to listen to the sacred message won for us at Calvary. Listening is an instruction to us also in the period we call Lent, when our Southern Hemisphere days are not lengthening, but getting shorter as winter looms. We are to be ever mindful that Christ suffered and died for us. Listen to the word, we are told. We are to listen to the word of Jesus. Beyond that we are to listen to ourselves, listen to each other, listen to the world around us, listen for God's call on us as we discern where best to devote our time, our thoughts, our finances, our energies.

Listening is a key skill in a world where for much of the time we are being shouted at with different, insistent and conflicting messages. How often during a day do I stop to listen? Yet listening is not sufficient. As we are reminded in James (1:22): "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

As guardians of the Cursillo Movement in Waiapu, we find the doing can be difficult at times. 2016 brings Waiapu challenges as well as joys as we endeavour to promote and increase support for Cursillo across a Diocese undergoing change. We aim for a Secretariat that truly represents the

Diocese as some stand down and others take their place – for us also a time of transition. The Cursillo Movement is to grow the Church – we hold fast to that.

While at times the hill is hard to climb, we truly have many things to celebrate. Enthusiasm among the team for Combined 4 scheduled for 7 -10 April in Papamoa in the Bay of Plenty is high. Registrations are mounting. Many are responding to the call to serve on Combined 5 later in the year in Hawkes Bay, led by Diane Mara.

Aside from 3 giftings of 3-Day Cursillos from our neighbouring Diocese of Wellington and Waikato-Taranaki in 2011-2012, we in Waiapu rejoice in having run 5 3-Three-Day Cursillos with 2 more to come this year – that makes a total of 7 Waiapu-led Cursillos since 2013.

Christ is risen! Alleluia! Happy Easter!

2016 in Waiapu

Combined 4 , Papamoa	7-10 April
C4 DDU , Taupo	14 May
Ultreya , Napier	20 August
Combined 5 , Napier-Hastings	29 Sept – 2 Oct
C5 DDU , Napier-Hastings	12 November

www.waiapu.com/cursillo

Faith is used as a noun 243 times in the New Testament.

Faith is used as a verb 243 times in the New Testament.

What does that tell us?

It tells us that faith is equally about *what* we believe
and what we *do* with what we believe.

A bocadillo (spiritual snack)

from Richard Spence, Diocesan Spiritual Director, Diocese of Waipapu

On a Sunday morning, as you're preparing for Church that day, do you look in the bathroom mirror and ask yourself: Shall I wear my Cursillo cross today?

Why you might decide not to:

Because it makes you look like you think you belong to some kind of spiritual élite

Because anyone can wear a cross, it doesn't mean anything

Because somebody might think you are some kind of minister.

Dangerous that!

Why you might decide to wear it:

Because other Cursillistas in the congregation will be encouraged to see you

Because the congregation that day may include visiting Cursillistas you do not already know

As an outward and visible sign of God's inward grace. Some would call that a sacrament.

It's a decision you have to make once a week – one size does not fit all. Me, I weigh the pros and cons weekly. I'm conscious that my first introduction to Cursillo arose because two visiting Wellingtonians (Frank and Sue Riley) chose to wear theirs to a service in Taradale, and I was encouraged to ask what? why? Another Wellingtonian (Syd Narraway) didn't wear his cross but stood out for me because he actually dared to converse in the Les Mills gym changing room. For gym bunnies that is not expected behaviour.

Your Cursillo cross does something for you. It does something for other people. It does something for Cursillo, and it does something for the Gospel. Take the time to think through whether you'll put yours on this Sunday.

De Colores! Grace and peace

Richard

WAIKATO - TARANAKI

Gosh ... Easter is around the corner.

It feels like only yesterday it was Christmas.

Am I the only one who feels sure that somehow the days, weeks and months of a year seem to be racing faster and faster?

Is it because we try to fit more and more into our days, weeks and months?

Are there more and more 'things' that distract us each day, each week and each month?

Lately I keep reading about, or I keep hearing about how we (or should I say "I") should spend more time "listening to God". During Lent it was traditional to 'give something up'. However, this Lent I have been trying to 'listen' to God more. God speaks to us in so many ways if we only keep an open ear and/or an open mind to hear. These messages from God can come at any time and sometimes when we least expect it.

One of these notations sent my way simply states:

"When people show up at a church, they want to experience God, not just sing a few songs and hear a helpful message. They want God more than they want advice" (Carey Nieuwhof).

This made me think about our different Cursillo events (amongst others).

Ultreyas

3-Day weekends

DDU

During these occasions there are times of worship – prayers and singing; usually lots of fellowship, lots of sharing amongst one another, but very little time to spend just quietly, open to listening to God's message/s; to wonder about the creation that is all around us. Added to this, was a discussion at our last Secretariat meeting of perhaps organizing another 'quiet' weekend (the last one wasn't too quiet!). As a consequence, we are attempting to organize a weekend this time at a 'Retreat' House.

During these days there will be time to spend in quiet communication with our Lord, to wonder at God's creation, and perhaps experience different forms of worship.

Meantime, as we approach Good Friday and the horror of the physical death by Crucifixion of Christ, the wonder of this sacrifice, and then the joy and thankfulness on Easter Sunday of his 'Rising' may we all commit to spend more time "Listening to his Word".

De Colores. Annette Rea (DLD) Waikato & Taranaki Diocese



2016 Waikato/Taranaki

16 April: Waikato District Ultreya – Taumarunui, 10am for 10.30 start
Shared lunch

3 Day Weekend in Taranaki has been cancelled.

So the DDU on 27 August has also been cancelled.

The weekend of **July 15th – 17th**. Fellowship weekend at Ngakura Retreat House run by the Tyborne Sisters. There are 11 single rooms at \$60 per night. Thoughts were Friday night to after lunch on Sunday.

Ultreyas: Waikato: 16/4/16, 28/6/16

Taranaki: 16/3/16, 18/6/16

Combined: at Waikato: 1/10/16

Living in These Days???

A little while ago I happened to pick up a book called 'The Final Quest' Rick Joiner, an American pastor. A visitor had left it behind, and, as the cover looked interesting, I investigated it further.

It was something like an allegory, but in the book Rick Joiner states very clearly that it is a record of on-going trance-like visions in which he experienced what he calls 'last days' when there is to be a great and last battle between light and darkness, when Jesus will return again. I try to steer clear of people who are over-anxious about the 'last days' or the second coming of Christ. There seem enough challenges in living out each day rather than in worrying about a date in the future about which even our Lord himself said, "No one knows the day or the hour when these things will come to pass except the Father himself." (Mark 13:32)

However, I read on, because the author seemed to be deeply motivated by a living faith in Jesus and backed up his visionary experiences with scriptures that really spoke to my heart. In many parts it read like Tolkien's 'Lord of the Rings'. It gripped my imagination. However, it was more than that. It challenged me to look at my own motives and attitudes to God and to others.

Above all this book reminded me that we are all called to deepen our relationship with our Lord Jesus and follow his teaching so that God's kingdom may come and God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven. The author's visions helped him to look at himself and allow the Holy Spirit transform him into a worthy servant of Jesus. That is the calling we all have as followers of The Way.

In the final page were these words Rick Joiner heard:

"Remember, Love is My greatest weapon. Love will never fail. Love will be the power that destroys the works of the devil, and love will be what brings My kingdom."

Our greatest calling is to love – and that is what our world needs above all. So let us love in word and in deed, loving with the love Jesus our Lord showed, loving God and loving neighbour and knowing we ourselves are held in God's love.

Ultreya!

Wendy Harland – (DSD) Waikato and Taranaki Diocese

Wellington Diocese

Well it has been a while since I submitted a report – sorry you didn't all hear from me before Christmas – my lovely husband was in having a DOUBLE hip replacement so between him and the new puppy (!) life was a bit blurry. However, he has come through it (slight hiccup/infection along the way), mostly unscathed (Neil, not the puppy!).

A few of the Wellington Cursillistas had the pleasure of attending a service in Foxton over January to honour our lovely Hennie Nothnagel who was doing a service to let his Parishioners know what/who is Cursillo. The service went amazingly well and proved to be a great “model” which we think we might take “out on the road” so to speak! Watch this space

Stephen Sharp and Claire Frater are our lovely Lay Directors for 2016 and are proving to be well equipped for the job ahead. It has been great to see the teams in action as I get to sit back and perform the Char duties this year! One of my favourite things as the DLD is to ask perspective LDs if they will do the role. They always respond with “no way, not me”! Isn't it amazing how God sees the potential in us and yet our picture of ourselves is different. It is so satisfying to sit back and watch them grow and succeed in God's strength.

I had a lovely story from a Cursillistas over the Christmas period (she has given me permission to share this). Her husband died recently and they were both avid Cursillistas, so much so that he was buried with his Cursillo songbook! Her songbook went to the Funeral Director so that at the time of her passing she too may be buried with her songbook! She was emailing to ask if perhaps I had another copy I could give her. Isn't that lovely! Even our songbooks make a difference and mean a lot!

I also had the absolute pleasure of hosting Jack and Wendy Goodall from Canada recently. Jack is the DLD for Calgary Cursillo in Canada. He did

confuse me when he walked in the front door because he was speaking with an English accent! Turns out he's from Yorkshire, but now living in Canada. It was so interesting hearing how they run weekends over there and their likenesses and differences with us. One thing I really liked is that over in Canada the LD for the weekend gets to design their cross which is specific to the weekend, therefore the pilgrims get a cross which is unique to their three days! Jack was very generous in his Cursillo gifts from Canada and it was nice to in turn, gift him our Cursillo T shirts, stationery packs, cross and song books! Thought I would share the photo with you (notice the crosses we are wearing are handmade by Jack!).

Left to right – Wendy Goodall, Lew Price, Lucy Creighton, Tanya Mac, Claire Frater,
Jack Goodall



Christchurch Diocese

I must be getting older, but it doesn't seem that long ago that I was writing for the Christmas edition and now Easter is just a fortnight away! After the long, lazy days of January, February can come as something of a shock as school starts again and all the groups I'm involved with that had a well-deserved summer break start reminding me that I need to get a lot of meeting times up on the calendar.

I certainly don't feel as much pressure as King David frequently did, but as commitments escalate I often remind myself of our Bible verse for Christchurch Women's 9 -

" But I trust in you, O Lord;

I say, ' You are my God,'

My times are in your hands." (Ps 31:14)

One person who was busy in January was Raewyn Crosby getting her team together for C19 which is to be held at the end of May. This earlier date for us is because of the National Ultreya and Christchurch's 20th Birthday Celebration to be held this Labour Weekend. After the normal frustrations of trying to contact people and set things up in January, the Planning Committee is moving up through the gears and the weekend is taking shape. I confess that the only National Ultreya that I've attended was held here in Christchurch over a decade ago and was a most enjoyable occasion. I now regret that I haven't attended other NUs. So I encourage you not to follow my bad example, but make the effort to come to Christchurch at Labour Weekend to help us 'celebrate our journey.'

De Colores. Stephanie Johnston (DLD, Christchurch)

IMPORTANT DATES

ULTREYA, 2 April, St Barnabas, Fendalton

COMBINED 19, 26 - 29 May, Blue Skies, Kaiapoi

DDU & ULTREYA, 25 June, St Augustine's, Cashmere

ULTREYA, 28 August, North Canterbury

NATIONAL ULTREYA, 21 - 23 October, Chateau-on-the-Park, Christchurch

Maundy Thursday and Foot Washing

I came across this quote by Adolf Adam recently:

The liturgical year did not come into existence on a draughtsman's table nor does it owe its existence to shrewd thinking and careful planning, but ratherit emanates, and derives its growth, from a heart, a centre. This heart of the liturgical year is the passion and resurrection of Christ.

Whenever I view the worship space of our church after we have stripped it at the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday service - the object that draws me is the beautiful brass cross in the centre of the altar, draped in sheer black material. The stark beauty enhances the experience of worship on Good Friday - the beginning of the Paschal Triduum, the Great Three Days.

Every year I look forward to Maundy Thursday - I love the symbolism, the poignancy, how it feels choreographed in many ways, yet warm, inclusive and casual in others. Usually the Bible readings rehearses the original Passover, the practice of the Lord's Supper in the early church and the Last Supper itself, where Jesus washed his disciples' feet.

As I sit there - or as in the past as I leave the Church last, the draped cross speaks to me of the weight Jesus bore - from the earliest days of his desert temptations, to his anguish in Gethsemane and finally the stumble to Golgotha under the weight of the cross that would hold his dying body. All of this for us so that we might learn to entrust ourselves and whatever burdens we carry - sickness, grief, relationship strains, financial issues to him and he will willingly wash our dirty feet, serve us bread and wine and turn our "*slight momentary affliction*" into "*an eternal weight of glory*" 2 Corinthians 4:17.

As Priest and people on that night were enact the ancient ritual of washing one another's feet - sometimes ticklish, sometimes emotional, touching (literally) but always a tender gesture of service and love.

Finally, we remember the other crucial aspect of that original evening - the sacrament of Christ's body and blood. It's true that we do every Sunday but somehow on this night when we remember that Jesus was handed over "*suffering and death*"; when we remember that this was the first time he said "*Take eat, this is my body.....Drink this all of you, this is my*

blood" it carries added meaning.

As the last people receive a wafer and sip from the chalice we watch in silence as the lights are dimmed and the congregation slowly file forward to receive the elements and other sacred items, the cross is draped, and finally a wooden cross is carried in and laid in front of the altar. As the candles are extinguished we hear the thud of a nail being driven into the wood, three times we hear that sound - a single spotlight is left illuminating the cross and we silently leave the church.

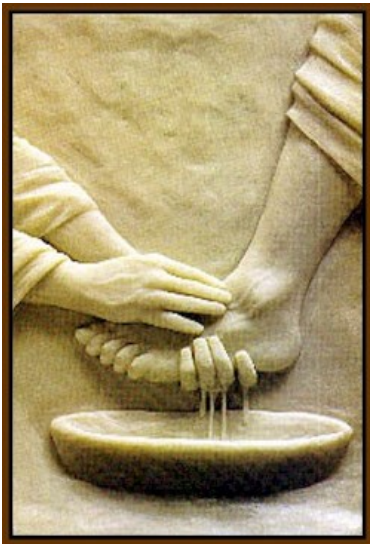
On Good Friday there are the two crosses - stark and bare in the daylight and still with us in all their horror on Saturday.

But on Easter morning - what a contrast - the cross is gone, the drapes are removed - the beautiful banners have returned - the church is full of flowers - we greet one another with the Easter greeting "*Christ is risen*" "*He is risen indeed, Alleluia*"

For me this is a graphic reminder each year of the incalculable cost of God's action bringing -

Atonement, justification, redemption, reconciliation, and salvation.

This is the heart of the Paschal mystery that we absorb each year in this Holy Triduum - by his dying, we are healed.



De Colores. Lynnette Lightfoot
(DSD Christchurch)



God sees all the little things you do; He's interested in more than just "big" things. The fruit of His Spirit--such as kindness, patience, and self-control--often manifests itself in quiet ways that others may never give you credit for. But such spiritual seeds accomplish powerful work in His kingdom. *Dr Charles Stanley*



*His grace is great enough to meet the great things
The crashing waves that overwhelm the soul,
The roaring winds that leave us stunned and breathless,
The sudden storm beyond our life's control.*

*His grace is great enough to meet the small things
The little pin-prick troubles that annoy,
The insect worries, buzzing and persistent,
The squeaking wheels that grate upon our joy.*

—Annie Johnson Flint

Dunedin Diocese

Oamaru Ultreya on 27 February

A good gathering of Cursillistas from throughout the Diocese enjoyed the generous hospitality of Oamaru Cursillistas on a beautiful North Otago day. Oamaru Cursillistas also lead our opening worship.

We heard from Kristy Fergusson about her participation in a Leadership Forum in Rome last year and from a Roman Catholic Cursillistas visiting from Florida.

Witness Talk

The Witness talk was given by David Sutton, who was a Pilgrim in our most recent 3 days (Cursillo #19). David gave us examples of the many and diverse ways God has been active in his life. This invited us to explore a variety of images and approaches to recognising and responding to God in our own lives.

A quote from David's talk: *By bringing the dead past into the living presence of God we can bring forgiveness to it and make a new future possible.*

Psalm 23

David read an adaptation of Psalm 23 from the Native North American tradition which speaks powerfully to him about what it is to be a spiritual warrior.

The Great Father above is a Shepherd Chief.

I am His and with Him I want not.

He throws out to me a rope and the name of the rope is love and He draws me to where the grass is green and the water is not dangerous, and I eat and lie down and am satisfied.

Sometimes my heart is very weak and falls down but

He lifts me up again and draws me into a good road.

His name is WONDERFUL.

Sometime, it may be very soon, it may be a long, long time.

He will draw me into a valley.

It is dark there, but I'll not be afraid, for it is in between those mountains that the Shepherd Chief will meet me and the hunger that I have in my heart all through this life will be satisfied.

***Sometimes he makes the love rope into a whip,
but afterwards He gives me a staff to lean upon.***

He spreads a table before me with all kinds of foods.

He puts His hand upon my head and all the "tired" is gone.

My cup He fills till it runs over.

What I tell is true.

I lie not.

These roads that are "away ahead" will stay with me through this life and after; and afterwards I will go to live in the great lodge and sit down with the Shepherd Chief forever.

So be it.

Response to the Witness Talk

After the talk we tried writing a form of Psalm 23 for ourselves based on an idea from the 'Seasons of the Spirit' series.

Dreams

There was an opportunity to learn more about Dreams as a way to listen to God and to recognise that prayerfully reflecting on dreams allows God to communicate with us less hindered by the filters and barriers within our conscious minds.

Prayers of Life - Michel Quoist

Although *Prayers of Life* was written by Michel Quoist in 1954 and published by Gill and MacMillan in 1963 we noted that the introduction to the chapters within this book are as true today as they were then:

***‘Of we knew how to listen to God, we should hear him speaking to us.
For God does speak.’***

***‘If we only knew how to look at life we should realise that nothing is
secular in the world, but that everything contributes to the building of
the kingdom of God.’***

***If we knew how to listen to God, if we knew how to look around us, our
whole life would become prayer`***

***‘Long prayers are not needed in order to smile at Christ in the smallest
details of daily life.’***

***‘If we knew how to look at life through God`s eyes, we should see it as
innumerable tokens of the love of the Creator.’***

David concluded his talk with these words: ***It is love that underlies our
smallest and greatest gifts to each other.
The death of love: It will never happen.***

Trailer for 3 Day Equipment

A watertight trailer has been purchased to store and transport all the equipment needed for a 3 day and other Cursillo events. This is our 15th Anniversary project.

Cursillo #20.

Cursillo #20 is set down for 5-8 October in Alexandra.

Although the intended Lay Director has now had to withdraw we are prayerfully hopeful that this Cursillo will go ahead at the date and time intended. We invite your prayerful support as a new Lay Director is appointed and the team assembled.

Vivienne Galletly DSD Dunedin.

God is Love

Observe what God is doing all the time and everywhere, and then do the same thing (Ephesians 5:1).

And what does God do? God does what God is: Love.

The logic is then quite different than the retributive justice story line most of us were given. Henceforth, it is not "those who do it right go to heaven later," but "those who receive and reflect me are in heaven now."

This is God's unimaginable *restorative* justice. God does not love you *if and when* you change. God loves you *so that* you can change. That is the true story line of the Gospel.

EASTER BASKET

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

- 2 TIMOTHY 1:12 NIV

SOAP GETS IN YOUR EYES

When I attended Cursillo 156 as a pilgrim, I had no idea what an impact it would have on my life. I heard people refer to it as “life changing” but rationalized that that was probably some marketing tool to get the unsuspecting interested. I had no idea that I would become a part of such a Christ-centred, spirit filled community.

I had no idea that I would make so many close friends across our great Diocese. And, most certainly, I had no idea that I would find such an incredible group of Christian friends with whom I would reunion each week.

My sponsor, Gaines Watts, performed his duties flawlessly and invited me to his reunion group immediately upon my return to the real world. I had no idea how I would fit one more meeting into my busy week, but I thought I would try it out and probably lose interest in a few weeks or months. I was never so glad to be wrong about something!

Our reunion group is known as the SOAP Reunion Group. No, it’s not some clever acronym, but rather a nod to the fact that the group began meeting at one of our member’s place of business the Green Mountain Soap Company in Huntsville. Richard Hammer and his wife Elaine graciously offered the space in their kitchen/ breakroom for about six of us to meet each week. It was there that I learned the mechanics of a reunion group, made some great friends, and felt encouraged to discuss my faith and works openly with others. Our meeting is the highlight of my week and I am left with an empty feeling when circumstances prevent my attendance.

Over the next few years, both our reunion group and business at the soap factory grew to the point that it was no longer feasible to meet there. We moved our weekly meeting to the Confirmation Room at Nativity, but we did not totally abandon our association with soap. Each year we gather at the soap factory and, under the direction of Richard and Elaine, make and package hundreds of bars of soap for distribution to indigent prisoners during a Kairos weekend at Limestone correctional facility. Seeing the love that is poured into each bar of soap is easily the closest moment to Christ that week for each of us.

Our group continued to grow, but we were saddened by the fact that Richard Hamner was rarely able to attend due to demands of his expanding soap business. I'm not sure who initiated the conversation (most likely the Holy Spirit) but the group came up with a brilliant idea "If Richard can't come to us, we'll go to him". Then another idea was floated... "How about we go to the soap factory and help him catch up so he can join us again?" And that's exactly what happened. A group of about 10 men spent two days making soap and growing even closer together as they performed apostolic action for a dear friend. Our reunion group is still going strong, with over a dozen members, most of whom are present each week, including Richard. We are still listed on the church calendar as the SOAP reunion group and us old-timers still talk fondly of meeting at the soap factory and our foray into soap making. Now that I have experienced a Cursillo weekend and the loving experience of a reunion group for the past eight years, the phrase "life changing" no longer sounds like a tired cliché, to me. No, I proudly use the phrase "life changing" as it is the only way to truly explain what Cursillo means to my life.

From VIVENCIA newsletter of the Alabama Cursillo by David Collette



BESIEGED

Do you ever feel beset by people and organizations contacting you and looking for things? They want a contribution, to make a sale, or get you to agree with their view point. You just have to see this deal we have for you; or the need is urgent and you need to contribute; or the government is doing it all wrong. Now that we are in the information age, they have more ways to get to you – email, Facebook, twitter and the like, as well as snail mail and the phone.

Everyone wants a piece of you. You can get information instantly. Little stories become giant mountains. And if the presentation formats haven't changed lately, they are out of date! Everyone's viewpoint is available, both those that are well thought out and the flaky ones. We are inundated with information, viewpoints and change. I've heard it said we're still at the beginning of the information age, and our minds will be blown away with what is yet to come. In many ways, instant information is a blessing. But it can wind its way around your mind and become a curse.

Each of us has our own examples. I get calls every week from Rachel, with my last chance to reduce the interest on my credit card balance! And have you gotten the call that says "This is your final notice as it relates to the financial stimulus?" Some of the callers are getting sneaky, calling from different locations each time. One Caller ID said I was calling myself! For one retailer I checked a box to receive promotions. Bad move. Now I get emails from them daily with the great buys I need to make. And every time I go to the weather channel the format has changed. Also Consumer Reports has just changed the format of their monthly magazine. How dare they!

Each one of us has their own way to handle this deluge of information. I have a friend who refuses to have a computer – a bit extreme. I get about 30 emails a day. If I read them all I'd be inundated. So I immediately delete most of them, knowing of course, I can call them up

again if I need to. I handle snail mail in a similar way. Most of it goes into a box for a quick look at the end of the month. Several charities I've given to over the years send me scads of letters for additional contributions. I sometime wonder if they spend more on letters than I've contributed. Finally, I've come to the decision not to contribute over the phone.

But there is a deeper issue. The fast pace of our lives today and the flood of opinions that besiege us can distract us from our lives as followers of Jesus. In a place and time where less than half the people have an active church connection, we are challenged as Cursillistas to live faithful Christian lives. In a world where people go to the internet, digest all the different viewpoints and decide what is right for them, let's dig into Scripture for deeper truths about God and our Lord as the Spirit leads us. And instead of trying to decide what will make our individual lives happy (and "fulfilled"), let's deepen our lives in the true happiness of a relationship with Jesus.

It's like our email. We have to filter out all the junk, and spend our time on the important stuff. And the same for snail mail. And yes, like all the phone calls to make contributions or to let Rachel help us with our credit card accounts.

We can be so sucked into this current world, and what we can get out of it, that it's easy to forget God's promise about our place in his eternal plan. Thanks be to God that he is unchanging, and that his promises are clear and constant. He creates and sustains all life. We are redeemed and restored in our relationship with him through our faith in His son Jesus. He calls us to live a godly life, and gives us the hope of an eternity with him. That far outweighs all the promises of this life and all that we might achieve or obtain here. Thanks be to God for his eternal promises to us.

From THE TRIPOD newsletter of the Massachusetts Cursillo by Jack Foster

NATIONAL CURSILLO ULTREYA **& Christchurch's 20th Birthday**

“Celebrating our Journey”

**at The CHATEAU-ON-THE-PARK
CHRISTCHURCH**



**Friday evening 21 October
– Sunday Noon 23rd October, 2016**

Speakers

Bishop Kelvin Wright
Archdeacon Dr Peter Carrell
Bishop Victoria Matthews

Workshops / Banquet Meal / An Emmaus Walk
Registration Forms available soon

Further details from Secretariats

Time to Plan / Time to Book / Time to invite a friend