

KIWI CURSILLO

*The Magazine for
New Zealand Anglican Cursillo*

Winter 2016

Issue 39



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THE DEADLINE FOR THE CHRISTMAS ISSUE IS FRIDAY NOVEMBER 18 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. If you wish to receive a Subscription Form please let me know.

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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>

POSITION 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.

Give it all you've got!

"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 MSG).

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!***

Life is not a competition that you have to win. It is not supposed to be a rat race. Life is a huge privilege and an opportunity. God has trusted you with gifts and abilities, which he wants you to use. Use them or lose them. He is faithful to us and he expects us to be faithful to him.

Nicky Gumbel

FROM THE NATIONAL LAY DIRECTOR...

Many readers, and not just Wellington Diocese Cursillo people, will know the El Rancho complex in Waikanae. It has been the scene of many Christian events, including many Cursillo Weekends. Some of you may know that the entrance to El Rancho has been moved because the new expressway will cut through the front gate. The new entrance is quite remote from the old one.

When speaking in June to some new Cursillo people and some veterans, I noted the image of that new gate. I suggested that there was more than one discipleship programme and I referred to Education for Ministry (EFM) and 3DM in addition to Cursillo. Each of these has benefits, but some are better for some than others. Or as one of my clients said “there are horses for courses”. For many of us, Cursillo has been a great blessing in bringing us into closer relationship with God and getting us from being pew-sitters into active Christians. However, it is important to appreciate that we all have different styles and temperaments, and what may be the best “gate” for me might not be the best “gate” for my close friend. (In this context, I commend the USA material about sponsoring and fourth day ethical issues to you – it has been used at a Diocesan Ultreya in New Plymouth.)

Two contrasting Bible passages refer to gateways. Hosea 2:15 (NLT) states:

I will return her vineyards to her and transform the Valley of Trouble into a gateway of hope.

Many other translations refer to “door of hope (e.g. NIV and NRSV), while The Message suggests a turning of “Heartbreak Valley into Acres of Hope”. Other translations often refer to the Valley of Achor, which is a place also mentioned in Isaiah 65:10.

Matthew 7:14-15 refers to the narrow gate (and the hard road) which leads to life.


In the context of our personal fitness, it is generally true that the more we exercise the greater the reward. And so it is also in our spiritual life in Christ.

In the context of Cursillo, this does not simply mean participation in Three-Day Weekends. Rather, it is in the Group Reunion that we exercise, with a focus on Relationship with God (aka Piety), Study (of our environments) and Apostolic Action. It is probably fair to say that some Group Reunions do not involve the amount of “stretch” that is desirable for growing our own faith and

growing the Kingdom. There are New Zealand Cursillo resources available that provide guidance about developing Group Reunions by focusing on peer mentoring – ask your Diocesan leadership if you are interested.

De colores

David McLay



Slow me down, Lord

Slow me down, Lord

Ease the pounding of my heart by the quieting of my
mind.

Steady my hurried pace with the vision of the eternal
reach of time.

Give me, among the confusion of the day, the calmness
of the everlasting hills.

Break the tensions of my nerves and muscles with the
soothing music of the singing streams that live in my
memory.

Help me to know the magical powers of sleep.

Teach me the art of taking minute vacations of slowing
down

to look at a flower,
to chat with a friend,
to pat a dog,

to read a few lines from a good book.

Slow me down, Lord

Inspire me to send roots deep down into the soils of
life's enduring values,

That I may grow towards the stars of my greater
destiny.

FROM THE NATIONAL SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR...

JESUS WITH SKIN ON

At the recent change over night for the local Lions' Club there was a long discussion about declining membership.

"We need to change," said someone "otherwise we'll never attract younger members."

"Why are you still a member after so many years?" another asked "What is it that has kept you involved?"

Good questions.

Ones we have been asking ourselves in our church and in the Cursillo Movement in our Diocese.

Some years ago on the first evening of a 3 Day Cursillo I spent time with one of the pilgrims- a single woman in her early 40's who seemingly had everything going for her – an exciting job that often took her overseas, a lovely home, an involvement in her church and local community. But at times she said, she was very lonely. She desperately wanted someone to share her joys and her sorrows, to wipe away her tears, to give her a hug.

"I know that Jesus is always with me," she said "but sometimes I need him with skin on."

Several months after that "weekend" I had a letter from her. "I loved everything about those few days," she wrote. "The talks, the discussions, the services were great but the most amazing thing was the love I received from those around me. And it hasn't stopped. Now I have friends to call when I need someone, people who support, encourage and pray for me. I have Jesus with skin on!"

The answer to the questions at Lions was "relationships." We can change the way we do things, the format, the presentations, the technology but the one thing we need to maintain and build on is the call we read about in the Galatians reading for the first Sunday in July (6:1-6,7-16) . The call to never tire of doing what is right and to care for one another and bear another's burdens.

To be Jesus with skin on to others.

De Colores

Sue

You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view, until you climb into his skin and walk around in it. --Harper Lee

The Tall Tree

She stood all season like a queen
Serene, sublime, clad in summer's glorious green,
One day I opened up the door
To sheer delight in what I saw...
A goddess stood in golden glow of autumn garb
But whispers from a chilly breeze
Sent tremors through the lands and trees
For just a day or two the radiant sight remained,
Till wind and rain her garments claimed,

She stands now naked, proud and free
She flinches not nor grieves
For the coverage of her leaves, nor shy
But bares in truth, with every branch
And tiny twig in silhouette
Against the sky.

In life the winds of change blow all around
You reach your zenith, you may shine
But glory hours through way fine,
may be brief,
Celebrations of success in life may change
from joy to grief.
But give no entry to despair,
but place yourself under His care.
In humility and faith lay your sadness at His feet
For he will take the weights of the burden of your lonely
fate, away.

M.Johansen

Waiapu Diocese

Readers may like to know what we reported to Synod after five years of Cursillo in Waiapu.

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Anglican Cursillo belongs to a world-wide movement to nourish and deepen our Christian spirituality. Well established in other New Zealand Dioceses, the Cursillo Movement was invited into the Waiapu Diocese by Bishop David Rice in 2011.

“Cursillo” is a Spanish word meaning “a short course”. In this context, the Cursillo Movement offers a short course in Christian living for Anglicans who are seeking to deepen their faith within the context of a supportive fellowship. The short course takes place over a Three-Day weekend.

Five years on it is time to take stock.

148 persons in the Diocese have experienced Cursillo. Of these 51 have either come to live among us in Waiapu bringing their Cursillo experience with them, or they undertook their Cursillo in another other Diocese before the movement reached Waiapu. Our 9 Cursillos held in Waiapu had 97 participants, averaging 10 per course. The number of Cursillo veterans is detailed in the table (below), in total, by gender and by regional location.

	Bay of Plenty	Eastland	Hawkes Bay	Waiapu
Male	12	1	26	39
Female	43	2	64	109
Total	55	3	90	148

Among the 148 veterans of Cursillo we count 23 clergy, of whom 15 (8 male & 7 female) experienced their Cursillo in Waiapu, including 2 who were subsequently ordained. Of the 23 half are deeply involved in supporting the effectiveness of the Movement in Waiapu.

Cursillo offers participants the opportunity to nurture and deepen the three essential encounters with self, Christ, and others, sharing and learning from each other’s personal experiences in discipleship and leadership. Most are inspired to return to their Parishes and environments to live, witness, and communicate the Good News that God loves us to people they encounter. Many discern pathways for their ministry in responding to God’s call for apostolic action in their normal, everyday living.

Of the 97 who experienced their Cursillo in Waiapu, 35 committed to join teams

preparing to run the course. As they prepare for this commission, these volunteers gain valuable leadership training. In fellowship with lay peers and clergy, they prepare, refine and give talks, witness their faith, lead discussions, use their gifts to serve others, and develop their personal theologies. For some it is the first time they have ever spoken in public, or led prayers, or led discussion on spiritual matters, or discovered a personal theology, or considered ethical matters. Eight laypersons with team experience have stepped up to lead the Cursillos, strengthening their leadership capabilities and personal ministries.

In addition, some volunteers offer their leadership experience to steer the Cursillo movement in Waiapu so that it can achieve its aims of supporting the mission of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa-New Zealand.

+++++

On a more immediate note we celebrated Combined 4 in Papamoa (Bay of Plenty) in April led by Christine Gaudin and its follow-up Day of Deeper Understanding – both well-attended events, supported by many from across the regions. We look forward to Combined 5 29 September – 2 October led by Diane Mara to be held at Riverbend Bible Centre in Hastings, with its DDU scheduled for 12 November.

In Waiapu we have tightened the link between the Three-Day Cursillo and the DDU, reinforcing the expectation that everyone will attend – making it a package deal in fact. We have seen how much the DDU supports contemplation and reflection on the Cursillo experience, so that mature Christians gain a deeper understanding of the Cursillo method and its usefulness to their ongoing spiritual journeying.

De Colores

Gail Spence, Diocesan Lay Director, Waiapu Anglican Cursillo

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www.waiapu.com/cursillo

2016 in Waiapu

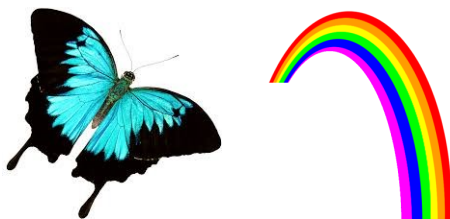
Ultreya , Napier	20 August
Combined 5 , Napier-Hastings	29 Sept – 2 Oct
C5 DDU , Napier-Hastings	12 November

www.waiapu.com/cursillo

From DSD Waiapu Richard Spence

Rainbow or butterfly, that is the question ?

For me it is, for I find myself energised more by the sight of that impressive structure way up there than I am by the twitching shimmer of any insect's wings. So in my head the arch in the sky works best as a Cursillo symbol to present to the Church and to the world.



(Just by the way, the list of colours ROYGBIV that we were taught as children, comes not from Noah but from Newton, Sir Isaac of that name. He strained things a bit to include Indigo, which is not a colour but a shade of blue.)

Right now, though, and in Anglican quarters, perhaps the rainbow's other connotations make it look as though I'm engaging with the same-sex marriage debate and even declaring my stand on that issue. The secular media have appropriated 'our' symbol – ours since Noah emerged from the Ark , around 2349 BCE (Genesis 8) – and widely distributed it to stand for the joys and sorrows of the LGBT community. To the extent where I might hesitate about displaying my rainbow symbol in Church on a Sunday morning.

So where does that leave me, if I'm searching for a graphic that symbolises my Cursillo orientation ? Something both energetic and positive ? The best answer may well be the chrysalis, that emblem of change and renewal. When we look at the changes that occur in the pupal stage of an organism's life, the parallels with baptism and repentance are powerful indeed. Biologists speak of *Holometabolism* – what goes on in the chrysalis is a complete lifestyle makeover, just as the one that baptism commits us to.

So would I like to offer the chrysalis as a Cursillo motif, less equivocal than the rainbow and more gutsy than the butterfly ? I think I would. Do you agree?



WAIKATO - TARANAKI

Greetings from Waikato and Taranaki Diocese

Luke 22 vs 41 and then he, Jesus, went away from them and prayed.

Matthew 26 vs 36 – 39 Prays in Gethsemane

Luke 4 vs 1 – 2 Led by the Holy Spirit into the desert

Throughout the New Testament there are references to Jesus going away by himself, away from the pressures of teaching, of being with people. To be free to pray, to be with his Father, to contemplate what was to happen to him, Jesus, and even to question about what was to happen in the near future.

In this day and age, it is almost a privilege to be able to take yourself away from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. To get away from the demands of a business/working life; to turn off or ignore the phone; to forget for a short while of what has to be prepared for dinner, or even, what has to be prepared for next Sunday's service. To just "be" with our Lord. To read his word, and really reflect on them as opposed to quickly reading them and perhaps another person's commentary. To let our thoughts dwell on our relationship with our Father. On Friday of this week, I will be joining with a small group of fellow Cursillista at Tyburn Retreat House at Ngakuru to spend several days in quiet contemplation. Contrary to a usual Cursillo 3-Day weekend, there will be no timetables; no proctor to ensure everyone keeps to the schedule. Morning and evening prayer and Communion on Sunday morning and the sharing of mealtime. Apart from this, it will just be a time when we as individuals can spend a time of quiet.

Me I am now thinking about what reading material to take –my bible of course, the Prayer book for our times of worship and then what. Should it be a book about someone who has/is living an interesting Christian life or should it be a book more of a reflective nature. Perhaps a book of prayer. Maybe just paper and pen to write down my thoughts.

HOWEVER - maybe I shouldn't plan anything, take the first two books

mentioned, and just be. To walk outside through the countryside or to sit and wonder at his creation, looking down the hill, through the bush with the lake at the bottom.

Most of those attending the retreat will be retreat 'first-timers'. Will they take books? What sort of books? If so, will they even open them? It does not matter. My prayer is that however, we all are able to be one with our Lord and so at the end of the retreat we feel closer to God with our communication lines having a clear path, with no obstacles standing in our way.

De Colores,

And I hope to see a number of you in Christchurch in October.

Annette Rea Diocesan Lay Director

2016 Waikato/Taranaki

Diocesan Ultreya at Piopio - 1st October 2016

SYMPHONY

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



www.joyfultoons.com © 2008 Michael D. Waters

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus,

- ROMANS 15:5 NIV

Waikato Cursillistas Ngakuru Retreat

In the middle of July, seven Cursillistas from Katikati, Te Awamutu and Morrinsville spent the weekend at Tyburn Monastery in Ngakuru. The Tyburn Nuns are a worldwide contemplative, Benedictine congregation. Their retreat centre offers an opportunity for others to share in their life of worship. At Tyburn Monastery in Ngakuru, South of Rotorua, the retreatants are welcomed to spend time alone with God, to rest, and to enjoy the scenic surroundings. The centre has sunny decks overlooking the lake, a beautiful Rosary Garden, a bushwalk to the lakeside, The Sacred Heart shrine, and Mount Calvary, which gives a panoramic view of Lake Ohakuri and its surroundings.

"We arrived out of torrential rain and it looks like we will leave for home through the rain. But on our arrival the rain eased and by Saturday the sun shone. I'm blessed by the talents and abilities of all who attended

-leading us in prayers and reflection

-being so open in sharing personal struggles

-being child-like in giving to God

Each person who attended has left a blessing for me. I'm heading home encouraged, touched by God – and KNOWING that in God's family everyone is amazing.

Thanks, Brendon."

"During the quiet time I chose to reflect on the 23rd Psalm- "A Psalm to calm the soul" said one commentator.

The serenity and peace of Tyburn gave me the space to do this.

A question put by author W. Phillip Keller in "A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23" struck a chord when he suggested,

"Do I leave behind peace in lives - or turmoil?"

"Do I leave behind forgiveness - or bitterness?"

"Do I leave behind contentment – or turmoil?"

"Do I leave behind flowers of joy – or frustration?"

"Do I leave behind love – or rancour?" Inez.

"Beautiful place with God all around. Quiet, reflective, joyful and God's Love

in abundance.”

“Retreat. Quietness. God’s Creation shown in abundance. What a privilege!!”

“Reflections in the lake, mimosa trees in bloom, fantails flitting, magpies warbling, hills to climb, views to astound, peaceful gardens in which to pray. Silence, song, prayer, laughter, shared thoughts, loved friends – such makes for a Cursillo Retreat!”

Saturday evening devotions arose out of an individual activity of blowing bubbles, with a special bubble pipe, done at some time during the day, somewhere on the Tyburn Monastery land. Throughout the day, beautiful bubbles could be seen drifting in every conceivable direction and from different places. Individual spontaneous thoughts and memories were then recorded on a paper bubble for sharing at the evening devotions. A selection of some of these are included here.

Go where the Spirit takes you -- freedom in Christ.

Bubbles are like my faith, ever changing.

Through God's Son, Jesus Christ, I can be like a bubble -- unique, strong, resilient, beautiful, complete and loved -always.

Rainbow colours, blue, translucent, all beautiful and unique -- like us.

Bubbles remind me of my maternal grandmother, who taught me my Bible stories, and I give thanks for her loving guidance and care in those early years.

No matter your size, appearance or shape, I will always carry you - says the Lord.

Alone, the bubbles soared, reminding me of childhood dreams, and the child within so soon crushed, and yetin spite of it all, there is a child within still wanting to play.

At the time of our devotions, all these were tied together with a homily reminding us that we are all God's Indispensable Bubbles.



Cursillo Retreat – 15-17th July 2016

God's Indispensable Bubbles – based on 1 Corinthians 12:12-27

While looking for bubble poems and prayers, I came across a sermon based on 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 and I'm using parts of it for our reflections tonight.

As we watched the bubbles this morning, we saw the way the light shines on them and the rainbows revealed within.

Each bubble shares the same shape, spherical, but each is different in size, unique and special – like us. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 12 that we are God's people, the Body of Christ, made in His image. That is why we are infinite in variety, beautiful in shape and perfect in form – like bubbles.

So remembering that, can our affirmation of faith be that of answering a really positive "Yes" to these statements:

God the Father created these bubbles, the universe, and each and every one of us. **YES**

God the Son, Saviour of us all, who breathed the same air as us on this earth, the same air with which these bubbles are filled, lives today in our hearts. Do we believe this?
YES

God the Spirit, who moves these bubbles, and which fills this space with power from on high, plays within us, guiding and strengthening us. Do we believe this? **YES**

But there are times in our lives when we feel weak. It's like the bubble of exciting, joy bringing, brightly coloured life that we were, has been popped. It might be through age, illness, the situations that are putting pressure on our lives, but that sense of weakness can come to make us feel that we're useless, to God or to anyone else for that matter.

But 1 Corinthians 12:22 reads "Those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable."

So if we are God's indispensable bubbles, a bit weak and prone to going pop, what can we do to make our individual bubble stronger?

I believe we are blessed in our belonging to Cursillo as we have the tripod of Piety, Study and Action to help us in our walk with Christ. So we can strengthen our bubbles by leaning on the tripod and on each other and praying constantly.

This prayer was on the same page as the sermon and it appealed to me so I share it with you:

Lord, take me where you want me to go,
Let me meet who you want me to meet,
Tell me what u want me to say
And keep me out of yr way .

Waikato Cursillistas Ngakuru Retreat



Wellington Diocese

Wellington Lay Directors Report – Kiwi Cursillo

June/July 2016

Well it has been a very busy time with Wellington having just completed M40 and W40 coming up on 14 July.

We were very happy to have 15 pilgrims for M40 and even more happy to have received 19 pilgrims for W40.

Well done to Stephen Sharp, our LD for M40 in June. A fantastic weekend was had by all, even with the slight hiccup of one team member being taken away in an ambulance and returning the next morning to carry on (good going Mark Wing!).

Stephen's theme for the weekend was "Let God transform us – that's how you change the world".

We were even honoured to have our lovely Bishop Justin Duckworth as a pilgrim this year.

Preparations for W40 are well underway with myself even being on team this year to carry out Char duties! This is being ably led by Claire Frater whose theme is 'Grow in Godliness' illustrated by the harakeke and what it represents. I look forward to reporting back on this.

It seems like a real growth year for Wellington with opportunities to make changes and exciting challenges ahead looking at the picture of Cursillo for the future.

We have had a small change around in our team. We said goodbye to our lovely Derek Keatley this month who has been the Diocesan Spiritual Director for the last 6 years. What a fantastic job he did – thank you Derek for your commitment and certainly for your support of me in this role. Robyn Mclay has taken on this role along with Hennie Nothnagel who has stepped in as Assistant DSD (they obviously think I need two people to keep me under control now!). Ken Moxon from St Mary's Whitby has kindly stepped in as our communications guy. I am very fortunate to have a great group of people who sit alongside me on our leadership team.

So far we have about nine Wellington people registered for the National Ultreya in Christchurch at Labour Weekend. Wellington has undertaken to pay the registration fee for 10 people. To date we have had three responses. If you are in the Wellington Diocese and would like us to pay your registration fee, please feel free to email me.

Just to coerce you further – Robyn McLay and myself will be carrying out a workshop while in Christchurch entitled “Encouraging the Encourager” - How do we maintain the zeal and passion? While we know that our oomph comes from the Holy Spirit how do we actually live it out and what keeps us and those we encourage going?

This is a workshop for those who want to retain their ‘first love’ as well as for those who need refreshment and encouragement”.

It must be worth booking a trip to Christchurch just to come see this!!

We have a DDU coming up on 20 August (venue TBA) so save the date to come gather with family.

We are trying to source NZ Prayer Books for our supply – has anyone got any spare ones they would like to donate to us? We need about 30.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce our two Lay Directors for 2017 who have been appointed:

Maree Foster – St Mary’s Karori

Liam Foster – St Mary’s Karori

Please keep them in your prayers as they begin their Cursillo leadership journey.

And just to end on a “yummy” note, Janice asked what our favourite Winter recipe is – try this one on for size: Next page...

There is a world out there. ***Get in it.***

There is something going on out there. ***Don’t sit on the sidelines.***

God gave you two hands. ***Use them.***

God gave you a voice. ***Speak up.***

God gave you two feet. ***Get moving.***

Do something with the life that God gave you.

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might.

Ray Pritchard

Golden Syrup Dumplings



Dumplings:

1¼ Cups self raising flour

30g soft butter

⅓ Cup Chelsea Golden Syrup

⅓ Cup milk

Sauce:

30g butter

175g Chelsea Dark Cane Sugar/Soft Brown Sugar

½ Cup Chelsea Golden Syrup

1½ Cups water

Make the sauce by placing all ingredients into a large non-stick frypan or sauté pan.

Stir over a low heat until the sugar has dissolved. Then increase the heat until the mixture boils and turn the heat down to a simmer for one minute.

Make the dumplings by rubbing the butter into the flour until it resembles breadcrumbs. Add the golden syrup and milk and stir until just combined. Carefully drop spoonful's of the dumpling batter into the simmering sauce leaving space for them to expand.

Cover and cook for approx 20 minutes or until the dumplings are puffed and golden. You will need to turn the dumplings halfway through cooking. Serve with ice-cream, vanilla custard or thickened cream.

Are We Closed Or Open?

I find that there is something beautiful about finely crafted statues that goes beyond their immediate impact. Recently I was in a small coastal village where a number of large stone cockle shells had been placed. They lay in a variety of positions amongst the hebe garden next to the road. Some were facing one way, others the opposite; some on their edge, others more flat on their back. And they looked as much at home in a garden setting as they do on a beach!

As I continued to look, one thing stood out – they were all tightly shut, closed to the world around them and unaware of the life beyond their shell. And I wondered if this was a picture of how we are sometimes unaware of what is happening around us.

We don't intend to be shut off to the world but we get busy with family, church and friends; we are involved in all sorts of activities for church and family and before we know it our world has narrowed to one that is largely peopled by other believers. I think Cursillistas have a unique gift they can share with their wider communities – one that most of us will have experienced in abundance on our Cursillo weekend as a pilgrim. Joy. The wonderful knowledge of being loved and accepted for who we are – and the incredible gift of receiving that love and joy in tangible ways.

What a difference it might make to our communities if we all took our various positions (a bit like the shells!) and opened up our lives and our hearts to receive and give the love we have so richly been blessed with. Who knows, a few shells may start to open amongst those we meet.

Blessings,

Robyn McLay
DSD Wellington



Christchurch Diocese

I am an ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) teacher at a primary school in the east of Christchurch. A popular topic is 'the seasons' and Canterbury's annual weather is often very different to that in my students' home countries. This topic can also highlight the difference between a child's point of view and an adult's. For example children have no problem listing all the good things about winter. Top of the list is snow and all the wonderful things you can do in it. I have to admit I no longer view Christchurch being blanketed in snow and being able to build a snowman on New Brighton Beach (this actually happened 5 years ago) with total delight.

Next on the list would be something I agree with and that would be drinking hot chocolate. This could be because at our school our senior students have been selling delicious cups of this beverage for the princely sum of \$2 as a fund-raiser. I often suggest of the children that a really good thing to do in winter is to stay warm inside and read lots of good books. Some agree, while others appear rather amused. The whole exercise does remind me that we have so much to be thankful to God for and to remember to give thanks in all circumstances and seasons.

I am very thankful for the blessings of Combined 19 which took place at the end of May, a month of delightful autumn weather. The 13 pilgrims and team from all accounts enjoyed a special three days of learning, sharing and fun. A month later many were able to join the wider Cursillo community for a Day of Deeper Understanding where we use an interview format and also give participants the opportunity to ask lots of questions.

Now we can concentrate on all the details of getting the National Ultreya at Labour Weekend up and running. The theme is Celebrating our Journey and we hope a good number of you can join us in Christchurch for this special event. The last day for registration is 31 August, but of course we would love you to register before that. For more information you can contact our registrar, Glenda Prosser - harmony@xtra.co.nz or (03) 313 5083.

It seems strange to think that the next time I write an article it will be all about the NU. But until then - De Colores.

Stephanie Johnston (DLD - Christchurch)

Star Wars

It is difficult for me to comprehend that it is now July.

Life has been very different for me since March this year (when I retired from regular Parish Ministry) and in a real sense I am still coming to terms with the "new normal". You could say I am still recovering from 2015! and find it very difficult to remember the date or day of the week and whether things happened this year or last year.

However, one thing that does still seem to be around even though fading now is the hype around *Star Wars*.

If you cast your mind back, you may remember that at the height of all the hype weather presenters were doing *Star Wars* themed bulletins and there was even a Mexican football team who presented a new player dressed up as Darth Vader. I have heard of preachers who have presented a series of *Star Wars* themed sermons and a church in Berlin made international news for its *Star Wars* themed service where apparently the Pastors had lightsabres, the organist played music from the movies and over 500 people attended, many in costume.

Of course many people thought this was all going a bit too far but it certainly demonstrated that a *Star Wars* themed service was a lot of fun. What a contrast to the common (and often correct) perception of church - "*and now let us enter a time of taking this all a bit too seriously*". Fun is an important part of life and church! It's part of helping us to cope with the bad times. So maybe it's time, in the middle of winter, and possibly for some bad times, times of adjustment, to really embrace a sense of fun.

Star Wars and church do seem to be from two galaxies far, far away from each other BUT the creator George Lucas actually said that he wanted the films to start people talking about religion. That is probably why he made the Jedi religion central to the story. He certainly uses many Christian ideas in the movies - a key theme in the original films was redemption. We read of people being redeemed no matter what their past, and discover this was achieved by overcoming evil with love.

Lucas writes about several characters symbolically dying and coming back to life - think Anakin Skywalker who became Darth Vader and then returned to being Anakin again in a death and resurrection sequence that freed the galaxy - at least until Episode 7. But there are also scenes reminiscent of the

temptations of Adam and Eve and Jesus, characters who give up their lives for others and on and on it goes.

Of course *Star Wars* is not a perfect Christian analogy - after all Lucas used ideas from many religions. But he tells us that his ultimate aim was quite simple; *"I was trying to say in a very simple and straightforward way, that there is a God and there is a good and bad side"*. and later on he writes *"In essence, that is what Star Wars is about. We are both good and evil and we have a choice"*. So in *Star Wars* terms, it's a choice between the light and dark side.

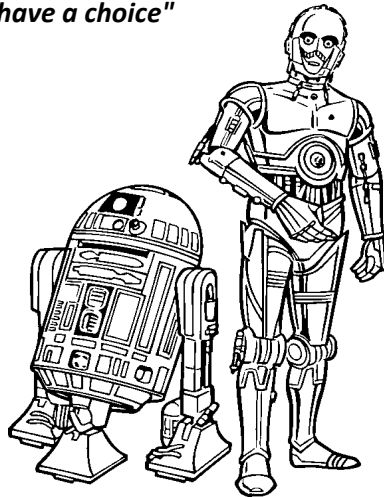
Jesus and other Biblical figures also use light and dark to describe good and evil and it's something that has become a huge part of Christian tradition. As Cursillistas we celebrate new life, new light, new understanding in many of our talks and activities over a Cursillo weekend. But after the weekend - what then?

Do we seek to be "Messengers of Light" - what kind of message do we try to spread in the darkness of winter? The Lucas quote seems to me to be a good thought to help us through and up and on!!

"We are both good and evil, and we have a choice"

Ultreya...

Lynnette Lightfoot DSD Christchurch



IMPORTANT DATES

ULTREYA, 28 August, North Canterbury

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

Dunedin Diocese

Cursillo Three Days – Dunedin Combined 20 – 5-8 October 2016 – Alexandra

The verse from Romans 8:28 has been particularly relevant over the last few months. 'We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.'

Dunstan High School Hostel had been booked from 5-8 October for Dunedin Combined 20.

A Lay Director had been appointed and she was gathering her team together. Unfortunately, she felt unable to lead this Cursillo and withdrew as Lay Director shortly after the Oamaru Ultreya in February. As a Secretariat we felt that this Cursillo should go ahead and were praying for guidance as to who might be able to lead it.

Plans to purchase a covered tandem trailer to celebrate Cursillo being in our diocese for 15 years had come to fruition with a waterproof horse float becoming available on Trade Me in Christchurch for \$6,000. After some negotiation we were able to purchase it for \$5,000.

The first opportunity that Keith and I were free to drive to Christchurch to collect it was the second week in April and we were looking forward to a few days catching up with family and friends as well as collecting the trailer and bringing it back to Gore to have shelving put in.

As we were approaching Milton I found myself saying to Keith, "You know, we could direct this Cursillo together. What do you think?" I hadn't given any real thought to this prior to coming out with it and was surprised to find myself saying it. However, we had plenty of time on the trip to Christchurch to talk through a number of issues and by the time we arrived felt that provided the members of the Secretariat were in agreement we would be willing to co-direct Dunedin 20 with me doing most of the organising prior to October, then sharing the directing with Keith at the actual Cursillo Three Days.

Keith sent an email to the Secretariat and we waited prayerfully for responses to come back.

Imagine our surprise to receive the following email from Vivienne Galletly, vicar of Milton, and our Diocesan Spiritual Director –

Hello Keith and Anne and all,

While it is not usual to have co-leaders I am strongly supportive of this proposal.

It had come to me in prayer about a fortnight ago but I was reluctant to suggest it aloud, (my head was saying things like "they already have many commitments' and 'is this establishing a precedent which is unhelpful?)" so I trusted that if I had heard correctly Anne and Keith would also hear from God.

So all I can say is 'thanks be to God' - go to it and may God give you both and the team all the energy, wisdom and strength you need.

I will keep praying

De Colores, Vivienne

Other members also affirmed this and so with this confirmation we contacted previous team members to see how many would still be able to be on team with the change of training day dates. The Senior Spiritual decided that she had a number of other commitments and would prefer not to be on team so we needed to replace her, but we were thrilled that Carol Masters was willing to continue as Assistant Spiritual.

I contacted Bishop Kelvin for the phone number of someone who I was going to contact and found myself saying to him had he considered coming on a Cursillo. His response was that since he had become Bishop no one had asked him. That was just too good an opportunity to miss, so I asked if he would be our Senior Spiritual and he agreed.

Over lunch together one Sunday after church we asked Brent Crawford whether he would be willing to be Proctor and his wife, Alison, to be a Table Leader and with their agreement felt a real sense of peace and rightness about how the team for Dunedin 20 was coming together.

As people were contacted I was excited at the way people accepted positions on team and when Mignon Pickwell said that she would be in charge of the Cooks' Team I knew that God certainly had things under

control and that we really didn't need to be worried.

This also affirmed for us the theme 'My Peace I Give You' Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give it to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. *John 14:27 New International Version (NIV)*

Last year at a combined churches service at the Catholic Church in Gore we sang this song and the words and tune have stayed in my mind. It seemed the obvious choice of song for Dunedin 20.

*Chorus: My peace I leave you,
My peace I give you.
Do not let your hearts be afraid.
For I'm returning, to my Father,
To prepare a place for you.*

When I'm gone I will send my spirit,
Who will guide and strengthen you.
And your joy will be found in giving,
With the peace and love this brings.

Chorus:
Come to me all you who labour,
And are burdened down with care.
For I will give you comfort,
And rest for your weary hearts.

Chorus:
For the peace that I will give you,
Is not the peace the world expects.
In the world you will find sorrow,
But have faith, I have conquered all.

Chorus:

We give thanks to God that we now have a full team.

Co-Lay Directors Keith and Anne Gover [Gore] '*The Way Forward*' '*Ideal*'

Proctor Brent Crawford [Gore] '*Offering*'

Senior Spiritual	+ Kelvin Wright [Dunedin] <i>'Sacraments'</i>
Assistant Spiritual	Carol Masters [Alexandra] <i>'Obstacles to Grace'</i>
Sacristan	Jan Cockerill [Queenstown]
Char	Jennifer King [Oamaru] <i>'Apostolic Action'</i>
Table Leaders	Dennis Burton [Mosgiel] <i>'Leaders'</i>
	Catherine Caley [Dunedin] <i>'Christian Spirituality'</i>
	Alison Crawford [Gore] <i>'Grace'</i>
	Kristy Ferguson [Invercargill] <i>'Study'</i>
	Pete Masters [Dunedin] <i>'Christian Community'</i>
	Lois Shallard [Musician] [Riversdale] <i>'Laity'</i>
	Bill Sim [Mosgiel] <i>'Faith'</i>
	Marilyn Sim [Mosgiel] <i>'Christian Living'</i>
Chief Cook	Mignon Pickwell [Dunedin] <i>'Changing the Environment'</i>
	Leith Brew [Wanaka]
	Allison Larsen [Alexandra]
	Susan Slaughter [Invercargill]
	Margaret Tegg [Dunedin]

As the translation of Romans 8:28 from 'The Voice' states -

²⁸We are confident that God is able to orchestrate everything to work toward something good *and beautiful* when we love Him and accept His invitation to live according to His plan.

Now we just need to trust God that His Holy Spirit is speaking into the hearts of those pilgrims He wants to join us at Alexandra this coming October and that we also speak to these people so that their registrations come in. Please continue to pray for us.

De Colores

Anne Gover

The Pounamu Prophecy

by Cindy Williams

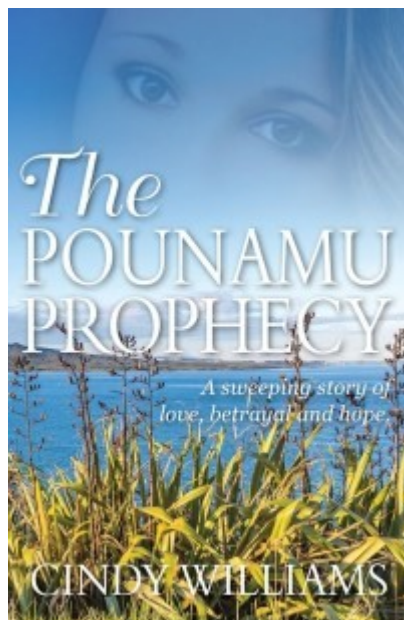
This book rightly describes itself as a 'sweeping story of love, betrayal and hope.'

The author has been able to weave the complexities of Australian, New Zealand, Maori and Pakeha world views. Cindy has crafted a novel which speaks into today. Her husband is Ngati Whatua and the tragic history of their lands, which culminated in the demonstrations at Bastion Point, Auckland in 1978, has been told in an inspiring story of forgiveness and hope. Although a novel, The Pounamu Prophecy is underpinned with historical evidence and memories shared by Grant Hawke, Chair of the Ngati Whatua o Orakei Maori Trust Board.

The story flashes seamlessly between the contrasting lives of an ambitious young Aussie couple and Mere, a Maori house guest who comes to stay. Mere is working on her memoirs and quietly brings insightful wisdom to her hosts. Their lives become interconnected through the pounamu prophecy, although this is not evident early in the book. Chapters are brief and complete in themselves, but you won't want to put it down and it is an easy read, so persevere if you think it starts slowly. The plot has unexpected flicks of pace and direction which kept me reading.

I particularly enjoyed the sensitive portrayal of Mere and how Cindy, as a Pakeha, depicted the historical content of the iwi she has become part of. In just under two hundred pages she has invited us into a contemporary understanding of what forgiveness and hope bring into all our lives.

In Mere's words, "No race is better than another; we are all human, capable of great evil and great good."





A Rainbow in the Sky

A rainbow in the sky
can make us look up bye and bye.
It's colours of bright array,
mean its got a lot to say.

BLUE its true, it's a wonderful hue
and hope of something new.

YELLOW is bright and mellow.

RED is bold and is not cold.

PURPLE is a royal hue
and good to look at that anew.

ORANGE is a bright light,
good to see it in your sight.

GREEN has an earthly touch
- a colour I like so very much.

PINK merges with the rest
the one I like the best.

*Written by Trish Shannon after the Ultreya at
St Peter's, Katikati.
25th June, 2016.*

NATIONAL CURSILLO ULTREYA 2016

PLANNING GROUP

Chair: Stephanie Johnston (Chch DLD)

Secretary: Justine Pilgrim

Treasurer: Derek Allan

Registrar: Glenda Prosser

Chaplain: The Ven. Lynnette Lightfoot
(Chch DSD)

Communications: May Carrell

Musicians: David & Glenda Prosser

Carolyn Swift

Transport: Gary Golding

What to bring:

Name Tag

Cursillo Cross

Song Book

Bible

Chateau-on-the-Park

189 Deans Avenue, Riccarton, Christchurch
8011

Phone: 03 348 8999

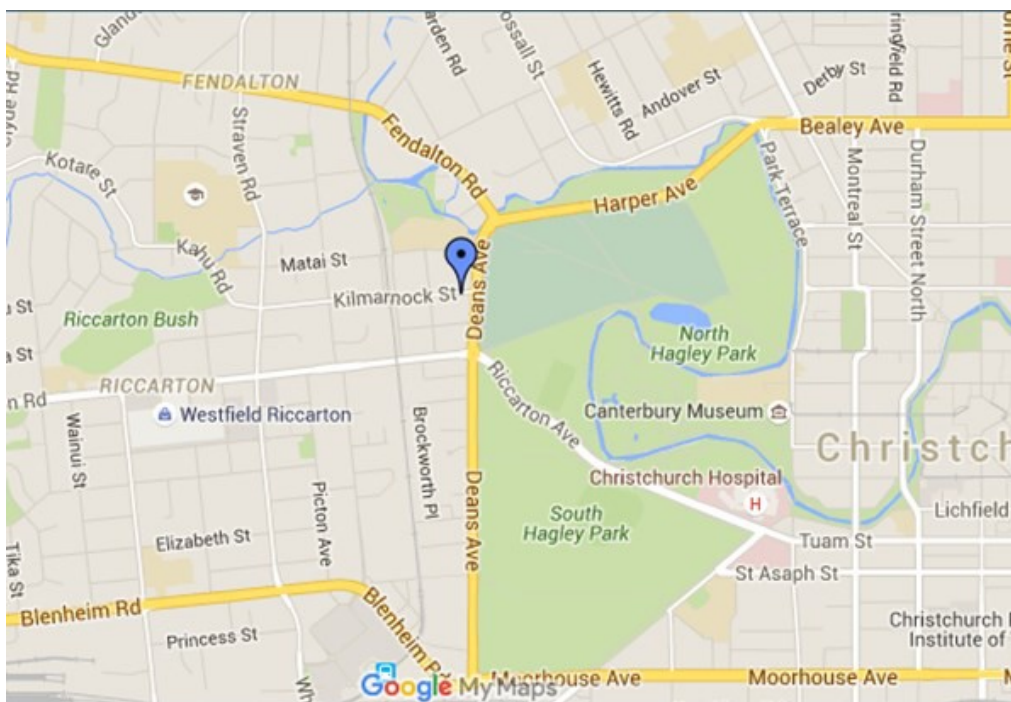
NZ toll free 0800 808 999

Email: res@chateau-park.co.nz

Participants need to arrange their own accommodation with the Chateau. [For billeting please refer to the Registration Form.]

Cost: \$195 per room per night for one or two persons. Does not include breakfast, but there is Continental Breakfast available.

When booking please mention 'Anglican Cursillo' as there are rooms reserved.



NATIONAL CURSILLO ULTREYA 2016

“Celebrating our Journey”

Please return Registration Form by Wednesday 31 August Photocopy and keep for your record.

NAME/S _____

ADDRESS _____

Post Code () _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

NO. _____

DIETARY OR OTHER SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS _____

I / WE WISH TO BE BILLETED - From _____ To _____

I / WE WISH TO BE MET AT THE AIRPORT – Date & Arrival time _____ Flight _____

I / WE NEED TRANSPORT TO THE AIRPORT SUNDAY/MONDAY – Allow one hour _____

I / WE WISH TO BE MET AT THE BUS DEPOT at _____ Date & Time _____

I / WE WISH TO BE RETURNED TO THE BUS DEPOT at _____ Date & Time _____

PARISH _____ CURSILLO ATTENDED _____

YEAR () _____

COSTS:

Full cost of NU16 will be \$150.00 which includes: \$10.00 non refundable Registration Fee; morning & afternoon teas; Saturday lunch; Saturday evening Banquet Dinner

For part-time attendance: Registration (Non Refundable) \$10.00 _____

Friday night \$15.00 _____

Saturday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. _____

including lunch \$55.00 _____

Banquet \$50.00 _____

Sunday 9 a.m. – Noon \$20.00 _____

[Note: If just attending the Banquet, the \$10.00 Registration Fee is required.]

PAYMENT:

Either, email this form to Glenda Prosser <harmony @ xtra.co.nz> with electronic payment –

Anglican Cursillo. Acct. 06 0821 0192732 00. Enter your name as reference. **OR**, Post to:

Registrar, Glenda Prosser, 30 Melford Close, Rangiora 7400.

Cheques payable to Anglican Cursillo Diocese of Christchurch

Enclosed: \$ for full payment /attendance

\$ for part payment, as listed above

\$ donation towards unforeseen expenses

Total \$ _____

A refund is possible if the Registrar is contacted before 1st October @ 03 313 5083 or email

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