

KIWI CURSILLO

*The Magazine for
New Zealand Anglican Cursillo*

Christmas 2020



Issue 52



REJOICE
Christ Is Born



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NATIONAL EPISCOPAL OVERSEER

I do not know about you but I find it exhausting living through an epochal year in human history. Looking back on living through the 1960s-2019, it seemed that crises happened in other nations. 2020 has been very different. Each and everyone of us has experienced the difference and the exhaustion of this year. None of us have been bystanders. Whether we look back on church services, sporting events, holiday plans, elections, and, yes, Cursillo events, everything has been disrupted and some longed for happenings have simply not happened.

Yet there is a lot to celebrate and I especially want to celebrate the resilience of Christians who have responded to the challenge of adapting to changing circumstances in 2020. For Cursillo in particular, it has been a challenge not to have face to face meetings because our life is in our fellowship. Zoom is a brilliant but necessarily second best alternative meeting mode. Our special resilience as Cursillistas is that we are not dwelling on what might have been in 2020 but already looking forward to God's better future.

As we draw near to Christmas 2020 we may find ourselves especially drawn to the disruptions in the Nativity story. Mary did not expect to be pregnant. Joseph's plans for marriage were disrupted by her news. The innkeeper disrupted thoughts of a tranquil stay in appropriate accommodation in Bethlehem. Shepherds broke the peace of the night for the new parents. Then Herod's deadly plan for young infants upset thoughts of a smooth return to Nazareth.

With God's help, none of the disruptions derailed the purpose of God for the Child born to be the Christ. May our faith in the same God be strengthened as we come to the end of this extraordinary year.

+Peter



NATIONAL LAY DIRECTOR

Ngā mihi āroha, ngā mihi hari ki a koutou katoa i runga i te ingoa o te Karaiti.

Warm greetings to you all in the name of Christ.

Many people can't wait for 2020 to be over, a year a year full of conflict and change, full of disasters one after the other, so many victims, so much to complain about, constant fodder for media with their commenting on the present disaster, mopping up the last one or predicting the next one. Always so much to worry about, be challenged by, be hurt by, be fearful of. The latest disaster, as I write, the All Blacks have lost to Argentina for the first time ever, their second game loss in a row! Woe is us!



I'm a printmaker. As I work on prints in my studio I often listen to talk-back radio, voices in the room keeping me company, until, exhausted by the complaints, grizzles, calls for pity over justice, expressions of resignation and victimhood, I dial over to music to empty my head.

It's all too easy to flip into a culture of complaint. As Bishop John Bluck writes in his book *Killing us Softly: Challenging the Kiwi Culture of Complaint*

Conditioned by years of hearing people grumble, we start with what's wrong. Relationships are built on finding fault, sharing inadequacy. Friendships come to rely on negativity. Institutions and voluntary societies thrive on sharing dissatisfaction. Industries depend for growth and profit on reviewing old problems and discovering new grievances. A mindset dependent on complaint develops so gradually that, without realising it, it comes to seem normal and complaining becomes something we do as naturally as worrying about the weather.

Over the years I've become more pro-active in consciously developing my personal theology to understand more about what I believe and ways to show it. To help me leave behind complaints, and whatever fleeting comfort they might give me, I find something to be grateful about each day, so that being grateful is becoming "a style of living, a way of seeing the

world, a habit of the heart.” Beyond prayer, here are two recent actions I’ve taken to sustain a personal discipline of gratitude.

In 2019 I signed up to daily newsletters from <https://cac.org/category/daily-meditations/> The meditations keep me on track, a reminder of the power of God’s love as sacred energy flowing through the world all the time, affirming God’s love planted inside each of us as the Holy Spirit who, according to Jesus, “will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you” (John 14:26). I am reminded each day to clear away the impediments to receiving, allowing, trusting, and participating in a foundational love. As St Paul writes, God has not given us a spirit of fear, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. (2 Timothy 1:7).

In October I travelled to Palmerston North to participate with 70 others in a “Virtual Franciscan Pilgrimage 2020: In the steps of St Francis & St Clare of Assisi”, virtual because it has been recorded and placed on-line for all to share - <https://www.pilgrimagenz.nz/node/12>

Two sessions, both entitled “The Theology of Francis”, were presented by Anglican Archbishop Emeritus Sir David Moxon. Session 5, the last session, was for me particularly pertinent. Saint Francis, faithful to Scripture, invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of God’s infinite beauty and goodness. The whole cosmos is God’s creation, so all creatures are sisters or brothers, united to him by bonds of affection, not there to be consumed, exploited, satisfying our immediate or long-term needs. The Franciscan movement flowed out of Assisi to bring about a reformation of the heart and overcome the illusion of separateness. We were created by a loving God to be a unifying love force in the world.

Francis and Clare, too, lived in challenging times. The world was facing a pandemic; Muslims were at war with Christians; the church was under threat; and the entire political-economic system was undergoing rapid change. Sound familiar? The poverty and austerity of St Francis and St Clare were not simply asceticism, they were something more radical: a refusal to turn reality into an object simply to be used and controlled. We must love God through, in, with, and even because of this world. This is the

message Christianity was supposed to initiate, proclaim, and encourage, and what Jesus modelled. We were made to love and trust this world, “to cultivate it and take care of it” (Genesis 2:15). The message is simple really, one to hold on to above all else, and that’s why St Francis and St Clare are for me such positive examples. As St Clare said: “Love God, Serve God, Everything is in that”.

Below is a prayer of St Francis written on the communion rail in the church of St Clare in Assisi, at the foot of the San Damiano Cross. You kneel to read it. It goes straight to the heart of what matters.

Most High All Glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart.
Give me a right faith.
certain hope
and perfect charity
with deep humility, wisdom and understanding
that I may know
and do your most holy will.
Amen

What does this mean for me? Accepting that God is in the everywhere I am called to see the greatness of God in the smallest of things. I see divinity within humanity. I discover in myself a light within, and I discover in every human being, in everything that exists, an inner light that is a gift from God. We can never be worthy and earn our salvation. Only God is good. There is only one way in our grasp and that is a simple “yes” to accept God’s love as a pure gift and to live life reflecting that love. That’s what I try to do. A strong sense of the presence of a Creator God gifts me a sort of sanity.

Embracing a love ethic requires me to demonstrate all the dimensions of love—care, commitment, trust, responsibility, respect, knowledge, the will to co-operate—in my everyday life. I have found I can successfully do this only by cultivating awareness. Being aware enables me to critically examine my actions to see what is needed. To live my life based on the principles of a love ethic I have to be courageous. Learning how to face my fears is one way I embrace love. My fear may not always go away, but it

will not stand in the way.

In Advent we symbolically receive once more the gift of Jesus among us, heralding the potential for new beginnings, new ways of thinking, new ways of feeling, new ways of doing, new hope for the world. For that I am extremely grateful.

Me mahi tahi tātou mo te oranga o te katoa. Kia ora Kirihimete koutou katoa.

We must work together for the well-being of all. Happy Christmas everyone.

Published by Shoal Bay Press, 2001, p. 21.

Ibid., p.118.

Love is who you are. When you don't live according to love, you are outside of being. You're not being real. When you love, you are acting according to your deepest being, your deepest truth. You are operating according to your dignity. —Richard Rohr

From 'God, the Lover of Life' 13th November 2020

May we pray together:

God, lover of life, lover of these lives,

God, lover of our souls, lover of our bodies, lover of all that exists . . .

In fact, it is your love that keeps it all alive . . .

May we live in this love.

May we never doubt this love.

May we know that we are love,

That we were created for love,

That we are a reflection of you,

That you love yourself in us and therefore we are perfectly lovable.

May we never doubt this deep and abiding and perfect goodness.

We are because you are.

The Aroma of the Holy Spirit

At a special diocesan event last night on Psalm 23, Bishop Eleanor finished by anointing the heads with anointing oil of anybody who wanted it. It was a beautiful time of prayer and blessing. The amazing benefit is that even today I can smell the aroma of the anointing oil (and yes, I did wash my face today).

In contrast, leadership guru John C Maxwell famously tells a story about a grandpa who visited his grandchildren: Each afternoon Grandpa would lie down for a nap. One day, as a practical joke, the kids decided to put Limburger cheese in his moustache. Quite soon he awoke sniffing. "Why, this room stinks;" he exclaimed as he got up and went out into the kitchen. He wasn't there long until he decided that the kitchen smelled too, so he walked outdoors for a breath of fresh air. Much to Grandpa's surprise, the open air brought no relief, and he proclaimed, "The whole world stinks!"

When we carry "Limburger cheese" in our attitudes the whole world smells bad. But... If we begin each day allowing our Good Shepherd to anoint our heads with oil then our world is transformed.

How is the aroma and fragrance of the Holy Spirit travelling with you through this month? It's something that we carry and notice in surprising places. It's something that other people identify in us and are hungry for. It's something that brings colour and life to the world.

De colores!

Rev Chris Darnell - NSA





+Bishop Peter, at one of our New Zealand Anglican Cursillo Council (NZACC) Meetings talked about three discipleships within the Anglican Church: Education for Ministry (EFM), 3DM and Cursillo.

Discipleships give us ways to follow paths of faith to meet our individual need and God's unique desire for us. Discipleships give us added choice and variety. Equally important is that discipleship creates opportunity for us to learn and grow.

The Church has given us so many wonderful pilgrims since Cursillo came to Aotearoa New Zealand in 1988. We all travel together on our Fourth Day journey and continue to value Cursillo as an important discipleship for the nurturing and development of our Christian living.

A distinction with Christian discipleship is that we are not only called to learn the teachings of Jesus Christ, we are also called to live them. A disciple is one who bases his or her life on the teachings of Christ "like a person building a house, who dug a deep hole to lay the foundation on rock" (Luke 6:48). When we make our initial declaration of faith and ask Christ to be our Saviour, He will begin changing us from the inside, giving us the ability to understand His word and the desire to live it. The power of both our parish life and our Cursillo discipleship is fundamental for the growth and prosperity of both our parishes and the Cursillo discipleship.

How can we ensure that our parish faith journey and Cursillo complement one another? One is no more or less important than the other. I hear conversations about how we are all getting older (and yes, we all are, regardless of age!). I also often hear "We don't have time for both our parish

and Cursillo!”

Perhaps it is time to have conversations about how we can best strengthen the synergies between parish commitment and Cursillo, rather than simply say one takes priority over the other. Central to commitment to our Lords work is that our parishes and the discipleships all remain vibrant and energised to do God’s important work. They all provide choice for journeying so that the diverse needs of God’s children can be nurtured and sustained. They are interdependent!

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13: 34-35)

De Colores

Jan Lockett-Kay - Waikato Taranaki Lay Director



Waikato Taranaki Cursillo 2021 Calendar

Three-Day Cursillo

14 – 17 January 2021

**Venue: Falloon House
Otorohanga College
77 Hinewai St
Otorohanga**

Ultreya (venues to be confirmed)

6 March	Waikato
27 March	Taranaki
19 June	Combined Ultreya
28 August	Taranaki
11 September	Waikato

Christmas reflection on a few of the Nativity Characters

Firstly God communicates through angels- to Mary, to Joseph, to the shepherds.

How does God communicate to you? More importantly how are you responding to God's communication to you?

Mary questioned, then said "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." *[Luke 1:38]*

Joseph acted on the angelic dreams as instructed taking Mary as his wife and later fleeing to Egypt.

The Shepherds initially terrified went to check out what they had been told.

Secondly Mary received God's life, incubating the baby in her womb and giving birth to Jesus. How are we receiving God's life into our lives and incubating it in a way that will give birth to Jesus in a way both we and others will experience his life, death and resurrection a very real life changing way.

Then Joseph provided a home and protection for the growing gift of God's life in Jesus. How are you providing a fully protected home for the life of Jesus to grow in your life, your family, your church and wider community?

The wise men were committed to learning and when they discovered a sign pointing to special new king they went on a journey to meet and worship him. There is much to learn in God's amazing, created world but are we seeing in that learning the signs pointing towards King Jesus, God's own son and all the wisdom of God that surpasses simple learning. We perhaps could say God's wisdom is applied learning.

Finally the Innkeeper was so caught up in his busy work season that he missed recognising something more important- the gift of God's life in a young pregnant woman and responded by saying 'NO ROOM' How do we recognise and make room for all the different ways God will knock at the door of our busy lives?

Christine Hunn - Co-DSA Waikato/Taranaki





Reverend Beverley Chatterton

August 13th 1935 – September 17th 2020

Women's One (Wellington)



I first met Beverley in 1990 when she came as a parish nominator to ask me to consider coming to St Mary's in Hawera, as their Vicar. Subsequently, Adrienne and I made the trip from Masterton to Hawera to have a look at the Parish of Hawera and meet some of the people. Etched into my mind are the words that were heard at that meeting. I had asked the nominators what they saw in me, that would make me the right choice as their Vicar. Beverley responded by saying; "you would have to love us to want to come here." I was speechless, but alert enough to know that this simple assertion betrayed an absolutely basic need. It also laid bare a profound insight. When mankind left the garden of Eden, they found themselves, metaphorically wandering in the wilderness. From then onwards, right through-out the Old Testament stories, the prophets were constantly calling people to repent and turn back. Ultimately the term Wilderness became a metaphor for not being reconciled. It became a symbol of separation. John the Baptist wandered in the desert urging people to repent. Jesus began his ministry in the wilderness. The cry from the wilderness was effectively, "who will take us into their home and love us?" People in the wilderness could articulate their lostness, but they were still to discover that their ultimate home was in the presence of God. That is the image I sensed when Beverley said "you would have to love us to want to come here." This was not a call articulated around buildings and mechanical plant. This was a call to a renewed and vibrant faith. Right at the very heart of our faith lies a very simple truth. God wants us to be reconciled with him, and he wants us to be reconciled to each other. The real business of ministry, is the task of gathering people from the wilderness and bringing them home. Here in this meeting with the Hawera nominators, a simple statement touched the very heart of our faith. I knew at once that I was called and I that would also have the help of a ministry team that understood the new commandment. In my last conversation with Beverley, just a few days prior to her death, I said to her, "Beverley, we had an amazing time, and God did so many amazing

things in our presence.” Beverley chose the readings for her service and when I realised that she had chosen the gospel according to St John; Christ as the bread of life, I also knew that she wanted to reflect on the empowerment of divine vibrancy that comes from being immersed in the life of Christ: the divine vibrancy that she experienced in ministry at St Mary’s, Hawera. Added to that was the total support that she received from her husband Geoff. The term ‘Bread of Life’ may be a figurative statement, but the consequence of being immersed in the Christ-Life and nourished by the ‘Bread Of Life’ is far from figurative. It is rather in its fullest sense, the ultimate experience of being at one with God. More than that, when God rains down this ‘Bread Of Life’ there is more than enough for everyone. The feeding in the wilderness; the feeding of the five thousand; and numerous other accounts, are not just biblical events from antiquity, they are vivid accounts of what happens when a faith community faithfully engages the task of reconciliation.

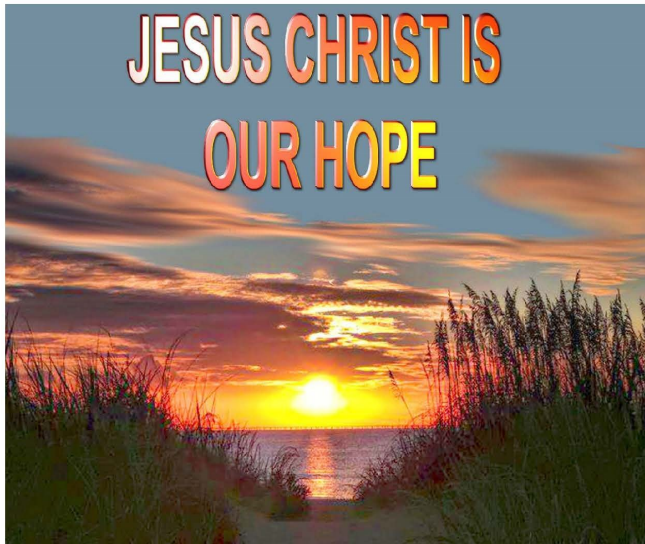
Friendships and faith stories, forged in the seven years together at St Mary’s still persist today. We were somewhat flattered to learn that others called us the Dream Team. I think that happened, because we were a team that shared a common ministry and radiated the sheer joy of being in Christ. It was infectious. The bread of life rained down upon us. We had an amazing time, and God did so many wonderful things in our presence. For a brief seven years, Beverley, Cursillista Oliver and I were privileged to be able to work together in ministry. Now that time has gone and new teams working in their own way, are responding to God’s call. For those of us moving on, it is time to offer thanks to God. He has been and continues to be so generous with his love and encouragement. It has been for us, such a privilege to minister in His Name.

Add to that, the joys of a vibrant team, and the Blessings abound.

Soli Deo Gloria

The Reverend Ross Downes [Rural Dean Emeritus]

Men’s 5, (Wellington)



Kia Kaha – Stand strong!

Sending you our love and prayers
From the Cursillitas
of the Waikato - Taranaki Diocese
in New Zealand.

SOME THOUGHT PROVOKING QUOTES!

When one door closes, another opens; but we often look so long and so regretfully upon the closed door that we do not see the one that has opened for us.

Alexander Graham Bell

There comes a time when you have to choose between turning the page and closing the book.

Josh Jameson

WAIAPU DIOCESE

Waiapu Cursillo November 2020

Each year we are reminded that Christmas isn't just about giving and receiving presents. Yet, if we honestly consider the heart of Christmas, it is, indeed, all about gift giving. At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the greatest gift ever given, by the greatest gift-giver of all, our wonderful God and Father.

"If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure, pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, and running over. Whatever measure you use in giving -- large or small -- it will be used to measure what is given back to you." (Luke 6:38)

This year has been difficult for all of us but in the season of goodwill, we reflect and see the positive changes we have made in our lives: we now know how to zoom each other, we see the need to keep in contact with friends and family, we see the need to connect with our neighbours and wider community and we see the value in our relationships with each other on a deeper more spiritual level. We have all been given the time to sit and reflect on our lives, this has brought changes and enhancements for some and a time for just being in our lives. This was one message that was prominent in our recent Ultreya, many of us lead busy and involved lives with many of us touching various groups and spreading encouraging, cheerful thoughts and words with others. We also need to stop and just be!

The group of splendid Waiapu people at the most recent Ultreya sharing and caring for each other.



Whether you will be family and friends or just having a quiet Christmas, I pray a blessing on you and your loved ones during this special season. Let's give the gift of Christ's love in abundance this Christmas.

Jennifer Whyman—DLD Waiapu



Waiapu Cursillo Celebration July 26, 2020

Hot off the press Cursillo celebration photo - taken on Sunday evening 26th July 2020 at the commissioning service for Jennifer Whyman Waiapu DLD, Gail Spence National DLD, Mary Dunn National Secretary treasurer, and me.



In the group photo from left to right are - Sybil Gibson Waiapu DSA, Jennifer Whyman Waiapu DLD, Gail Spence National DLD, Hanlie Viljoen past Waiapu DLD, Mary Dunn National Secretary treasurer, Mary Rowlands past Waiapu DA, Bishop Andrew Hedge, Waiapu.



In Search of Our Kneeling Places

by Ann Weems

In each heart lies a Bethlehem,
*an inn where we must ultimately answer
whether there is room or not.*

*When we are Bethlehem-bound
we experience our own advent in his.*

*When we are Bethlehem-bound
we can no longer look the other way
conveniently not seeing stars
not hearing angel voices.*

*We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily
tending our sheep or our kingdoms.*

This Advent let's go to Bethlehem
and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us.

*In the midst of shopping sprees
let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts.*

*Through the tinsel
let's look for the gold of the Christmas star.
In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos,
let's listen for the brush of angels' wings.*

*This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem
and find our kneeling places.*



Emmanuel is with us!



WELLINGTON DIOCESE

De Colores Cursillistas,

We are living in uncertain times and we experience it in our own diverse and different way. Apart from just trying to get through the hardships of live Covid-19 has certainly changed the way we live, think and react. More so for some than others. I share with you a message of hope from the bible and reflection by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth.

Seasons of adversity (economic or otherwise) do not catch God off guard. He knows everything that is going on in our world. He also knows what lies ahead. He is orchestrating all things to fulfil His eternal, redemptive purposes and to glorify Himself.

God cares about how adverse circumstances affect the lives of His children. Those circumstances may be intense and painful at times, but they do not have to overwhelm us or steal our peace. In fact, in the ultimate sense, *anything that makes us need God is a blessing!*

Crises can provide opportunities for God's people to flourish spiritually and to point others to Christ who is our only Rock and hope, not only in this present time, but for all eternity.

Many practical strategies and tools are available to help people weather financial crises. Here is some biblical counsel and perspective to help strengthen your heart in the midst of these uncertain times.

Look upward, rather than outward or inward. Our response to turbulent times will be determined by our perspective and where we place our focus. People should be able to look at Christians and see a response to pressure that is distinctly different- "unexplainable"! ([Phil. 2:14-15](#))

Natural response

Focus: outward (circumstances); inward (self)

Fear/insecurity

Hoarding (hold on to what you have)

Depression/despair

Supernatural response

Focus: upward (God)

Faith/confidence in the Lord

Generosity (share what you have!)

Joy/hope!

Which of these responses best describes where you find yourself at this time?

Tell God your needs. Ask Him for provision, wisdom, direction, and grace to persevere. Ask God to use this season of turmoil and uncertainty to bring about revival and spiritual awakening in our churches and in our country. ([Luke 11:2-3](#); [Phil. 4:5-6](#))

Have you prayed about it? Are you asking Him to provide your “daily bread” and to show you what steps of action He may want you to take? Are you praying for revival?

Learn the secret of contentment. Contentment flows out of believing that God has provided everything we need for the present moment and that He will provide all we need in the future. (Ps. 73:25; Phil. 4:11–13; 1 Tim. 6:6–8)

Are any seeds of discontentment evident in your words or spirit—murmuring, complaining, fretting, expressing that what God has provided is not sufficient to meet your needs?

Ask God to fulfill His purposes. God uses adversity to show us what is in our hearts, to purify us, and to deepen our dependence on Him. Seasons of leanness can prove to be times of great blessing, as people are stripped of self-reliance and their hearts are turned toward the Lord. (Deut. 8:3)

Are you more focused on meeting your own needs and solving your problems or on seeing God’s redemptive purposes fulfilled in your life, in those around you, and in our world? Are you willing to suffer loss, and if necessary, to be materially poor, if that would result in God being glorified and His Kingdom being advanced?

Allow God to purify your heart. Lean times can be a means of God’s chastening—both personally and corporately. Ask God what He is trying to say through these circumstances; let Him search your heart, and then respond in humility and obedience. (Ps. 139:23–24)

Is there any sin you need to confess—e.g., living beyond your means, fear, greed, temporal values, bitterness, withholding your tithe from the Lord, lack of compassion for others in need?

Allow God to reorder your priorities as needed. Times of economic hardship or loss expose what matters most to us and what we really love. They provide an opportunity to identify any tendency to accumulate “stuff” we don’t need, and to take steps to develop a more moderate lifestyle. (Luke 12:15,31,34)

Do you need to redefine what your “needs” are? Do you need to make any adjustments in your spending, so as to be able to live within your means and/or to give more to meet the needs of others?

Place your confidence in the Lord. He can be trusted. He loves you, He knows what you are facing, and He cares for you. These circumstances have not caught Him off guard. He is still on His throne and is accomplishing His purposes in your life and in the world. Trust Him to meet your needs—He will provide. Now is a time to see what God can do. (1 Kings 17:1–16; Matt. 6:25-34)

- Remember what God has done in the past. (Deut. 8:2)
- Rely on His character. (Ps. 36:5,7)

- Rehearse His promises. (Josh. 23:14)
- Refrain from taking matters into your own hands. Don't let fear drive you to places God doesn't want you to go. (Gen. 12:10f; Ruth 1:1f)

Are you relying on God to meet your needs, or on some other source? Does your response to adversity demonstrate faith or fear? Dependence on Him or self-reliance?

Reach out to others. Be sensitive to those around you who may have even greater needs than your own, particularly those in the Body of Christ. Don't just think about your own problems; put the needs of others ahead of your own. (Phil. 2:4)

Pray for others in need. (2 Thess. 1:11-12)

- Look for ways to encourage those who may be struggling. (1 Thess. 5:11; Heb. 3:13)
- Share with one another—help meet material needs, as the Lord has blessed you. This is an opportunity for Christians to demonstrate the gospel and compassion of Christ, so the world will say, “See how they love each other!” (Deut. 15:7,14; Prov. 21:13; James 2:15-17)

Who do you know who is struggling to make ends meet? How can you be an instrument of God's grace to them?

Practice Christ-like giving. The natural tendency in times of financial uncertainty is to hold on to what we have and give *less*. But what an opportunity to demonstrate the greatness and power of God in our giving! Ask God how you can exercise faith and reflect His generous heart in your giving at this time. (2 Cor. 8:1-4; 9:8)

Does your giving reflect the generous, giving heart of Christ? How might God want you to grow in the grace of giving during this season?

Rejoice in the Lord. Don't let the enemy steal your joy—regardless of what is going on in the world or in your personal financial situation! If we have *Him*, we are rich, we have everything we need, and we have reason to rejoice! (Hab. 3:17-18)

Are you manifesting the joy of the Lord to those around you—in your countenance, your spirit, and your words?

Take a moment to answer some of the above questions that Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth set before us after reflecting on the provided bible readings and find the hope and joy in our faith and set aside your anxiety that you may have and thank God for the abundance of his love.

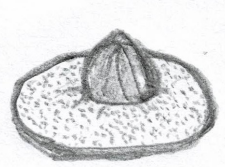
De Colores

Rev. Hennie Nothnagel - Wellington DSA



Hazelnut treats

I have made these hazelnut treats many times at Christmas, a season traditionally associated with marzipan flavours and nuts. Delicious with coffee ... or whatever else you fancy. They always disappeared fast. The addition of hazelnuts is my own invention.



Recipe

- 100 gr ground almonds
- 100 gr castor sugar
- 100 gr icing sugar
- ½tsp (optional) almond essence
- beaten egg to mix
- greaseproof paper
- whole hazelnuts

Alter the quantities of sugar used to suit the quantity of ground almonds used.

Mix the almonds and sugars in a bowl.

Add the essence and enough beaten egg to make a dough that is stiff enough to handle.

Knead the dough lightly.

Spread out a piece of greaseproof paper.

Make small balls with the dough, placing them spaced out on the greaseproof paper.

Place a whole hazelnut in each ball, pressing down firmly so that the nut is embedded in the dough and the ball is slightly flattened.

Allow to dry, then store in a container.

Gail Spence

PILGRIMAGE

It was May 2019. I was on pilgrimage in Italy travelling with a group of New Zealanders in the footsteps of St Francis and St Clare of Assisi. Early on we passed through Venice for a stay of two



nights, enough time to visit the lagoon island of San Francesco del Deserto.

1220, returning from the East after his meeting with the Sultan of Egypt, the island of 4 hectares was visited by Francis of Assisi who wanted to create a place for reflection and meditation, a function to which the convent of St. Francis is still dedicated today, hosting a Minor Order of the Franciscan friars.

Unique among all the islands of Venice, San Francesco del Deserto is a place of meditation, accommodating those who go there for spiritual reasons. A friar took us on a guided tour of the island, the church, the gardens with its cypress trees and green areas. We stood by the place where Francis found a multitude of birds singing. He asked them to be quiet while they took evening prayer. The birds were silent. When evening prayer finished, Francis gave them licence to sing again. Once more they sang.

After my visit this is what I wrote in my e-mail to family:

“ Thursday we travelled by bus across the northern part of Italy to arrive in Venice and then transfer to a water taxi for a spectacular 40 minute ride around most of the main city to get to the convent where we were booked for two nights. Restful place – lovely nuns, full of smiles, a garden, chapel, and of course a communal dining area for our breakfast and evening meals.

A walk to the basilica of San Marco among the crowds took us through narrow streets, over canal bridges and around so many corners that all

sense of direction was lost. A bustling place, seething with humanity and a cacophony of sounds. Just enough time to soak up the atmosphere before returning for our evening four-course meal then chapel.

Today, Friday, has been a joy. I started the day feeling tired and closed in by the narrowness of Venice. So it was a delight to get on the boat and be taken right out into the lagoon to the island home of the Franciscans. What peace! What simple beauty! What space! I felt amazingly restored. (.....) A day out on the water has restored my body and soul. I opted to come back to the convent for some time out and here I am sharing this all with you.

Here on this island began for me a new journey in my understanding of Christ and the universe. I felt the love of God, sacred energy flowing around me and through the world in all creation, a love binding together all things in the unity of God. This sense of the presence of Creator God gifted me a sort of sanity, a calmness, a pervasive peace beyond my rational understanding deeply felt in my soul. Encouraged by our group's chaplain to seek ways to grasp significant moments or insights on the pilgrimage journey, that afternoon I wrote this poem:

Isola del Deserto,
holy ground.
Healing for San Francesco,
where peace is found.
The earth is Christ's kingdom,
the chapel an aid
to intimacy and union
with Christ crucified.
With unhurried prayer
we meet Christ as a friend.
We yearn to be like him,
transformed to the end.

Gail Spence, W33 Wellington, St Anne's table.

CHRISTCHURCH DIOCESE

I was really pleased that my quick Wikipedia search did have an entry for “Plan B”. Admittedly some of the associations were not what I needed to think about but the association that I did think about was “contingency plan,” This year we have found ourselves regularly asking the question “what is our contingency plan if...?”

In my opinion God expects us to use our talents. We ought to use our talents to advance God’s kingdom. I think some people have a talent for planning. We definitely need that talent at the moment to have Plan A and a Plan B wherever possible.

Our Christchurch Secretariat has started to look forward to 2021. We begin the church year with the season of Advent and the Christchurch Diocese Cursillo has held an Advent Ultreya for so long that it has become a regular fixture. I do have to admit that we don’t have much of a Plan B for our Advent Ultreya that we expect to hold on Friday 4th December 2020. Let’s hope that Alert levels are not changed in the next couple of weeks.

I do not have a long enough memory to explain what the original intention for an Advent Ultreya was. However, I can make some pretty good guesses. Advent is the beginning of the Christian year and beginnings are a challenge to look forward. I suspect for many people there is also, in December, the festival of Christmas to look forward to.

This year our Advent Ultreya will be held in the church of St James, Harewood. Harewood is close to the airport. I am not expecting anybody to fly in to attend our Ultreya. However I am expecting all sorts of remarks could and probably will be made about Christmas, flying and ... a jolly red suited gentleman.

If you were to visit a local \$2 dollar shop that I know, in Hornby, you would think that Christmas is only about red suits, reindeer, and tinsel. I imagine this is a familiar observation for you all. Our Advent Ultreya is going to ask the question “what is the real Christmas” and “how should we witness Christmas”. Christmas now seems to have a story A and story B. Story A –

the birth of Christ – seems to have got switched to Story B – Ho ho and have I got a surprise for you in the shop window.

I want to finish with a poem – a poem about Christmas of course. What I like about this poem is the simplicity. I found the poem on the internet and I found the poet is a Canadian mum who writes with children in mind. Sometimes we need the simplicity that we assume children need and adults don't.

The Christmas Story

By Leanne Guenther

Once upon a time,
A long, long time ago.
Begins the story of a baby,
That most of you should know.

His daddy's name was Joseph,
And Mary was His mom,
This babe was very special
He was God's only Son.

Some angels came from heaven,
And they began to sing.
To the shepherds in the fields below,
"Glad tidings do we bring!"

A bright star lit the heavens,
To light the magi's way,
To the baby in the manger
Who was born on Christmas day.

And all who gathered round Him,
Rejoiced and praised His birth.
For the babe, the King, named Jesus,
Is our Saviour here on earth!

Mike Morley-Bunker - DLD Christchurch



GREAT HOPE

Romans 15 verse 13

Transitional Cathedral Evensong 10.12.17

2nd Advent

Every year there are prayers written for Advent and particularly for the lighting of the Advent Candles. A few years ago I used these words as we lit the candle. *Today as we light the Advent candle, the candle of HOPE we give thanks for the hopes we have experienced and had fulfilled in the past. We reflect on the hopes that Mary would have had for her child, Jesus, who was to be the fulfilment of God's purposes and we prayed in hope that there would be room in our hearts this Christmas to hold the vision of what is right for ourselves and for our neighbours with whom we share the resources and space of God's world.*

I was reminded of the words of Romans 15 verse 13 where Paul writing to the Church in Rome sends almost a Benediction in the midst of a letter expressing his longing to again be with them. He writes: *"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power spirit"*. So joining hope as great words of Christian faith we also have joy, peace and power.

For me one of the great words of the Christian faith is hope and by contrast two of the saddest words I often hear are "had hoped". Had hoped seems to lead to despair, acceptance perhaps of what appears to be a hopeless situation, or some sort of resignation that neither the world or ourselves are ever going to be better, and of course this end of hope, if you like often leads to depression, other forms of mental illness and more often than we care to know - to suicide.

I read a story once about a church which was facing a particular emergency and so a special congregational meeting was called. The person delegated to chair the meeting began with a prayer and after calling on "Almighty God", he went on to note that God's grace was sufficient for all things. Later when everyone was settled and he called the meeting to order he began by stating that *"the situation in this Church is completely hopeless, and nothing can be done"* Now obviously both of those statements cannot

be true.

During this Advent as we journey towards Bethlehem and are continually reminded of the promise and hope that Jesus is the fulfilment of God's promises we should also ask ourselves *"Does that verse come even close to describing me? Do I abound in hope?"* And because we do tend to give ourselves the benefit of the doubt maybe we should also ask if our family, friends and colleagues would describe us as being filled with joy and peace and abounding in hope?



I think it's fair to say that we probably all fall short of experiencing that verse - and I can't actually imagine anyone saying that they are not interested in having joy and peace or confident hope.

A common factor among people who are depressed is that they have no hope. Discouraged and disappointed people and those who are apathetic about life also have no hope. I could quote lots of statistics here but one will be sufficient and perhaps frightening enough. Depression (lack of hope) will be the second largest killer after heart disease by the end of this year and studies show that depression is a major contributory factor in heart disease.

It seems to me that there is something in Christian hope - something in the conviction that God is alive and with us, that no shadows can hide, no difficulty finally destroy.

No one is hopeless as long as there is such a thing as the grace of Jesus Christ, and no situation is hopeless as long as there is such a thing as the power of God.

So what can we do to share hope, proclaim hope this Advent? To participate in our Cursillo promise of Christian action?

I think we all need to answer the question for ourselves: "Do I abound in hope".

Secondly - whatever our answer as Christians **firstly** and good citizens secondly we need to find ways of giving hope to others. The letter accompanying a request for gifts this Christmas says *"For too many Kiwis, the*

only gift they want this Christmas is "hope" - hope to regain stability, hope for the future."

Throughout this busy period, when it is true that often memories of sad and difficult times rise up to overwhelm us we need to seriously ask God to fill us with joy and peace so that we will indeed overflow, superabound in confident hope.

Seems to me that this is a practical verse to take with us as we journey not only through Advent but right throughout our lives.

Alleluia. Amen.

Lynnette Lightfoot - DSA Christchurch



The Wise Man's Journey

There will be no camels;
we are going on horseback, at least for some of the way.
And we won't arrive there a few hours after everyone else.
It will be weeks, perhaps - or months.
We are not in a hurry.
That is not the way we work; we are not Europeans.
We will discuss the phenomenon - the star - and if it does not go away,
and if we still feel curious, we will travel.
We will look in the wrong place. Yes, I admit that,
because wise men, potentates, intellectuals - call us what you will -
are not infallible.
We expect a new power to emerge from the side of the old one.
We expect the destination we seek to resemble what our common sense
deduces.
We will be upset, angry even to find that Herod is ignorant
and that his residence is not the birthplace.

We will find it hard and intellectually demeaning
to bow the knee to the son of refugees.

And all this

all this upset will be compounded when it comes to journeying back
and we discover we have to go home by an alternate route.

That is the trouble with God,

He does not let you leave as you came.

He sends you back,

stripped of your presumptions,

making for home by an alternate route.

Unemployment, lost self esteem -

job sharing, retraining and respect.

Lost children and lost connections -

reclaimed lives and reconciliation.

Ravaging the creation; over development -

renewal, re-creating, reclaiming the Sabbath.

Racism, intolerance and prejudice -

diversity, integration and acceptance.

Let us prepare for the child is coming.

He'll have a manger for his bed.

Let us prepare for the child is coming.

Jesus, the visible presence of God.

Excerpts from the Diary of Daphne McKenzie – 1946

Never did I know a real call to become a Missionary, but at a very early age I knew that God was calling me – I never struggled to obey, I felt it was just wonderful that God was calling me, and my dedication was full and complete.

Come with me then, first to Durban, South Africa, where we arrived one night in the midst of a fantastic electrical storm. Two days later we commenced a five-day train journey to Mazabuka – a railhead 40 miles from the Hospital to which we were appointed. We arrived at Mazabuka late one evening, it was hot, dry, dusty and weird African noises filled the air. We

slept in the outside room of a Hotel that night, under mosquito netting, while frogs jumped about our room and croaked – it was too hot to close the door and there was no window to open – I spent most of the night wondering how high frogs could jump. After three days the Mission lorry arrived to take us the last 40 miles of our journey – we just seemed to bump from track to pothole and back again until I finally asked the driver how he knew which was the right one. He said “Oh, all the tracks lead to the hospital”. When we arrived we found we were supposed to have arrived the night before and all the nice dinner which had been prepared for us was eaten and of course there was no butcher down the street – in fact no street – so we had to be content with what was left!

A few months later – On Sunday afternoon we went out to one of the larger villages, about 5 miles away and sang carols in the Native (Chitonga) language. In the evening, by the light of Tilly lamps, we picked our way through fields, over drifts, to a number of villages and in Tonga, and gave to people sitting in groups, many eating their evening meal, the message of Christmas. As we returned to the Hospital we stopped on a lonely hillside, where we have our one leper patient and sang carols to him. One of the Nurses, with a curtsey fit for a King, presented him with a pair of shorts and a shirt for which they themselves had given the money. The Doctor suggested that prayer should be made, and the leper immediately knelt in the muddy ground and with clasped hands and face uplifted joined in. There were no dry eyes in the party as we crossed another drift and up to the Hospital to sing through the Wards. The Nurses went back to their dining room for supper, during which Father Christmas arrived. Some of the Nurses were very frightened and crawled on their hands and knees to receive their gifts. Christmas Day itself we had a service in the wards and gifts for all the patients. There was a Christmas Tree and Father Christmas for our own girls and the other children here and we were entertained at the Doctors for dinner - then in the evening the entire staff came to our house and we sang Carols – in English this time – a final supper and so to bed – our first Christmas in Africa.

Daphne McKenzie was Lynnette Lightfoot's mother.

DUNEDIN DIOCESE

Update from Diocese of Dunedin.

Although COVID has disrupted plans which were made to mark 20 years of Cursillo in this Diocese we are working on plan B to mark the 21st year in 2021 and hold Cursillo #21 at Labour Weekend 2021.

We are grateful to Anne Gover who set up and hosted another successful ZOOM Ultreya. It was especially pleasing that some Cursillistas who are now less able bodied were able to participate. Break-out rooms enabled us to hold floating group reunions.

We would like to acknowledge the ministries of Margaret and Craig McLanachan as they come to the end of their term as Co-Dunedin DLD.

In this Diocese they have both served as Lay Directors for 3 Day events and contributed to many other 3 Days and Ultreya. They have sponsored Pilgrims, encouraged Cursillistas and provided a listening ear for many. As well as supporting their grown family and being fully involved in their Parish Margaret has previously served as Diocesan AAW president and Craig has served the wider community as a 'Supergran' and a contributor to Bible studies at a local Health Centre.

The Cursillo community has been blessed by their prayers, their faithful example of practical Christian love and their consistent and committed reliability. Craig's stone carving activity has been relished by many pilgrims and Margaret's loving compassion has nurtured and cheered many.

We wish them both well as they journey with Christ into the future.

Despite the uncertainty of these days we can still celebrate that nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord so may the God of hope fill us with such joy and peace in believing that by the power of the Holy Spirit we may abound in hope.

Ultreya,

Vivienne Galletly. - Acting DSA. Dunedin



I know we don't have to say it but 2020 has been a difficult year everywhere in New Zealand for Cursillo. The only upside is that this country has been blessed with wise and timely government when we look at what has happened overseas.

We have seen our planned three day event postponed till 2021. As far as we know some of our fourth day groups have been meeting when practical. A celebration of our twentieth year of Cursillo was planned for this time but had to be postponed as well. Let us hope 2021 is an easier platform.

Some time back Margaret and I decided our time was up as Diocesan Leaders here but so far no-one has put their hand up to replace us. This will not affect our decision. Both of us have gained a huge amount from our Cursillo experiences and will of course remain loyal to the concept. We have enjoyed our experience of seeing how Cursillo operates nationally and we appreciate all the kindnesses shown to us.

We hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

De Colores,
Craig & Margaret McLanachan - Retiring DLD's, Dunedin.



JOY

J Jesus

O others

Y Yourself



Without Jesus our JOY will be OY and never be complete.

The R's of Christmas

As we celebrate that about 2000 years ago God came to earth in human form and was revealed to the rejoicing Shepherds as a baby in a manger we are invited reflect on how we have recognised and responded to the on-going presence of God in our lives today.

So this Christmas reflection is brought to you by the letter 'R'

Reveal

Recognise

Respond

Rejoice

Remember

Relate, Relationship

Mary and Joseph recognised and responded positively to God's call.

We can be people whom God uses because we recognise and respond positively to God's call.

Our loving words and actions are our response to the love God already has for us and reveal God's love to others.

We remember and recall God's love for us during Eucharist.

You can probably make more R connections as you reflect upon the wonder of Christ's incarnation.

The Collect for Thursday mornings picks up this theme:

Holy and eternal God,
in you we live and move and have our being.
In all our cares and occupations,
guide and govern us by your Spirit,
that we may both remember and reveal your presence;
through our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.** ANZPB 81.

Vivienne Galletly.

Acting DSA Dunedin

Keep Cursillo in your prayers . . .

Monday	Waikato/Taranaki Diocese
Tuesday	Wellington Diocese
Wednesday	Christchurch Diocese
Thursday	Dunedin Diocese
Friday	Waiapu Diocese
Saturday	NZ Anglican Cursillo Council
Sunday	Teams training for Cursillos/DDU's



Be guided in your prayer by items within the pages of this issue...

Cursillo Badges — A Great idea for Palanca

A few years ago, the Christchurch Secretariat commissioned the design and manufacture of a colourful and attractive “Anglican Cursillo New Zealand” lapel pin badge (pictured right). Featuring a colourful “de colores” rooster emblem, this badge is a great way to show your colours and start a conversation about Cursillo.



Priced at only \$10 each (plus \$2.00 postage), if required, badges will be on sale at three day weekends and Ultreyas, or may be obtained from Lesley Allan (03) 356 1819 or chchcursillo@gmail.com

Websites:

Episcopal Cursillo Website (USA) - episcopalcursilloministry.org
British Anglican Cursillo Council - <https://www.anglicancursillo.co.uk/>
Wellington Cursillo Website - www.cursillo.org.nz
Waiapu Cursillo Website - <http://www.waiapu.com/about-us/cursillo/>
Christchurch Website - <http://cursillo.org.nz/christchurch/>
Bible Study (Nicky Gumbel) - <http://www.bibleinoneyear.org/>
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