



KIWI CURSILLO

*The Magazine for
New Zealand Anglican Cursillo*

Easter 2018

Issue 44



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FROM THE NATIONAL LAY DIRECTORS...

Lent: Stripping Back

Some years ago, David & I landed in the UK on Maundy Thursday. I was excited to be in the Northern Hemisphere for Easter as I had often felt that Easter was up-side-down for us. Easter is all about new life and Spring, and in New Zealand we are all about descending into the dark and greyness of winter. I had great expectations about celebrating Easter in the “right” season for a change

On Easter Sunday we set off with the UK-based branch of the family to attend the main service of the day in their local church. The church looked right – there were daffodils on every windowsill and on every horizontal surface I could see. But there was no mention of the new life offered to us by the Resurrection of Jesus in the sermon or any part of the service at all. I was most disappointed – again there seemed to be a disconnect between the event we were celebrating and the world in which we live!

A few years later, I went on a silent retreat in Lent and a chance comment made by one of the staff of the retreat house in a service resolved my disconnect for me. The person commented on the trees slowly being stripped bare and how that allowed us to appreciate the underlying structure. I realised then that Lent does reflect the physical season in which I live. For Lent is the time when our faith is quietly stripped back to reveal its basic structure. It is the season without the frills we often find in the Church – the flowers, the “Allelujahs”, and other obvious signs of celebration. It is the season when we are reminded that the path we are called to walk is the path Jesus walked – that of vulnerability and humility.

I usually aim to do something more during Lent and add an extra element of study or prayer to my normal disciplines. This year I came across a Lenten series produced by the Society of St John the Evangelist, an Anglican monastic order which started in the UK but is now based in the US. They included in their study guide some “car questions” you could ask your children as you drove. I thought they were quite profound and

neatly encapsulated the Cursillo tripod of Piety, Study, and Action. I offer them here for your ongoing meditation as we approach Easter:

Where did you see God's love today?
Did you meet Jesus in anyone today?
When did you feel close to God today?
How were you a friend to Jesus today?
When did you notice God was with you today?
Where did you show or tell about God's love today?

Wishing you the blessings of new life this Easter.
Glenda & David Prosser - National Lay Co-Directors

FROM THE EDITOR...

How has your year gone so far?

How are you journeying through Lent, or does it not change the way you do things?

I have not given up any food group this year. I always seem to fail in that endeavour sooner or later before Easter. Instead, I have been trying to spend more time in contemplation (or silent) prayer with our Lord. A month ago we started having 'Silent Prayer' every Friday at 12.15pm after a Midday Prayer time that we have had at our church for sometime. It's a rewarding experience to spend quiet uninterrupted time with God and listening for the soft whisper from God.

I was Professed as a Third Order Franciscan last month in my church of St Matthew's in Morrinsville and was joined by a number of my church family as well as quite a few of my fellow Franciscans. It was a special, humbling experience to know their love was with me. Contemplative or Meditative Prayer is a practice I have been learning in the last two years and it has increased my experience of Christ, and so has the Spiritual Guidance I have had. Read more about that on page 12.

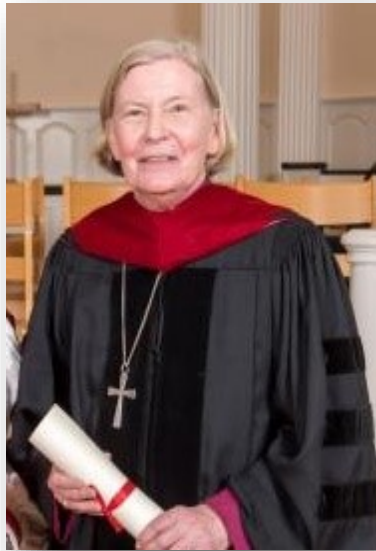
So, how is my year going? Exciting would be the word I would say. My Granddaughter gets married on May 1st, we have some significant birthdays coming up this year as well. As the kids would say - bring it on!

With Christ in my life I'm ready!

Have a joyous Easter

Janice Thorne—Editor.

Honorary Yale Doctorate for our NEO



The Rt Rev Dr Victoria Matthews

Congratulations to Bishop Victoria Matthews, our Cursillo National Episcopal Overseer, who was recently awarded an honorary doctorate by Berkley Divinity School, the Episcopal seminary at Yale University in the USA.

The honorary degree recognises Bishop Victoria's contributions to church leadership as the first woman bishop in the Anglican Church of Canada, her two terms as chair of the Canadian Primates' Theological Commission, and her leadership of the Diocese of Christchurch in the aftermath of Canterbury's major earthquakes.

Congratulations +Victoria!

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 SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR...

Introducing Chris

How do I introduce myself? First and foremost, I love Jesus. I have been embraced by, transformed through and continue to be bamboozled by the love of God. I love God's church, and I love seeing God's people have that 'aha' moment and discover God's infinite and generous grace for themselves. (And, I believe, as far as qualifications go, those are the most important.)

At the beginning of this year, and with great trepidation, I took up the role of National Spiritual Director for Cursillo In New Zealand. Surrounded by people with decades long and rich experiences with Cursillo, I honestly feel a bit of a fraud (and have told the National Secreteriat so), but trust that you will all show me grace as we discern together the way that God is leading us and remain attentive to His whisper.

For the last three years I have had the honour of being Vicar of the coolest little Anglican Church, St Mary's Whitby, thirty minutes north of Wellington. As part of this I also get to be Chaplain of Samuel Marsden Collegiate Whitby (and it is from the year nine school camp that I write this). Prior to this I have worked in Pahiatua, Eketahuna and Karori parishes, worked for the Alpha Course in New Zealand and around the Asia Pacific region, studied at St John's College, Victoria and Otago Universities.

I readily embrace my INFP personality, love music, good movies, art galleries, watching sport with friends and non-Lent coffee. I'm a technology nut, a bit of a geek and a gentle giant. I look forward to getting to know you.

De colores!
Chris Darnell NSD



TRUE FREEDOM

*'Father I thank you
for all that you've done,
you gave your Son freely for me,
and I praise you for calling me,
drawing me near,
out of blindness you caused me to see.'*

Watching the movie 'Broken' and watching the DVD of 'The Shack', all in one day was for me, profoundly thought provoking and powerful. The Holy Spirit truly touched my heart and God clearly wanted me to sit up and take notice. God made me think again about judgment, forgiveness and reconciliation. And as if that wasn't enough, this song began to repeat itself in my head. What was going on!

Local Radio was promoting the New Zealand movie, 'Broken' as being based on the book by Joy Cowley, 'Tarore and her Book'. I had no trouble getting two friends to come along with me as they too were familiar with this true story which is part of our history. We knew the story well, we knew about the tragedy but we also thought we would see some lovely native bush and gain insight into Maoridom and traditions ... and there would be references to the gospel of Luke, wouldn't there?

How wrong I was! 'Broken' is a modern interpretation of Tarore's story. The storyline goes like this: Logan, an ex-gang leader, has left the gang to raise his daughter Tori. But when Tori is murdered by an opposing gang in town, Logan must choose between forgiveness or revenge.

Later the same day I watched the DVD 'The Shack' and this storyline, too is underpinned by tragedy.

'The Shack takes us on a father's transformative spiritual journey. After a family tragedy the father spirals into a crisis of faith, and questions God's existence and life's purpose. He is unable to move on, until he gets a mysterious invitation to an abandoned shack. There God is revealed as three strangers. The father's journey is one of judgement, forgiveness and reconciliation.

God had something profoundly thought provoking to share with me that day. There was some Holy Spirit nudging going on. Yes, that was what

was going on!

I recommend you read the short children's story, 'Tarore and her Book' by Joy Cowley. And then watch 'Broken', if you can bear the violence. 'The Shack' is a worthwhile watch which closely mimics the plot of the book by the same name written by William P Young.

We will all have different opinions and insights – you will empathise with some bits and totally disagree with other bits and it's all thoroughly thought provoking.

As for me, I'm still stuck with beautiful line of the song :

'Out of blindness you caused me to see.'

Rev'd Mary Rowlands

Waiapu Diocesan Spiritual Director

Fellow Cursillistas Overseas

In December I had a communication through our DLD Hanlie that an English person was to be in our area on holiday with her family wanting to meet up and fellowship with us. We had just had our last Group Reunion of the year so I suggested to Sylvia that she come to our Wednesday service at St Peters Mount Maunganui and invited her to lunch with a couple of others afterwards.

It was a beautiful Bay of Plenty day and over lunch we chatted and swapped stories about what we had going on in our differing areas. I had intended to do it again but Sylvia was leaving on 2 January and you know how busy the Christmas Season is at the beach! Sylvia had joined her family in worship at St Peters Presbyterian Church Tauranga where her son was worship leader, and got roped into helping out at their Annual Christmas Lunch for the Homeless on Christmas Day!

Sylvia lives in Chichester in the south of England and had an inspirational story of working in the 90's along with her husband (who had retired at that time and supported her) in Romania visiting and praying with

terminally ill patients in their homes and teaching palliative care to the nursing staff. Praying with them she counted as a privilege (remember these people had just emerged from communist rule) and yet their Faith remained strong despite not having the freedom to always attend church. She said the hospice movement has since grown, and now operates from purpose built hospices for adults and children alike totally run and mostly funded by the Romanians.

More recently Sylvia was invited to help in Uganda, she was very unsure as although she is a qualified nurse she did not class herself as a teacher. She prayed about going and asked what could she do or what did they need? She felt the Lord was guiding her and took a brave step forward in faith - not sure what lay ahead.

Each year since that time Sylvia visits Uganda for 2 to 3 weeks to love and support young children who are orphans, giving them the opportunity to be educated and guided into future vocational training or university. The rewards are seeing them blossom and achieve their dreams, and they communicate their achievements regularly by mail. Sylvia explained the Ugandans are lovely people wanting to share what little they have. On one occasion her team returned to base with 6 live chickens plus a goat in the back of the car. Needless to say they chose to leave them with their host as it would have created quite a stir at Dubai airport!!

If you are interested you can find Sylvia and her Team on their website at Imara Uganda Education Fund.

There is so much good work happening in Cursillo worldwide with truly inspirational people doing God's work. What a worthwhile and global movement we belong to!

Ultreya and Blessings

Barbara Ollerton

PC Coordinator – Waiapu Diocese Secretariat

WAIKATO/TARANAKI DIOCESE

We began the year's activity on 3rd February with a Day of Deeper Understanding in Morrinsville. It was a very worthwhile experience for all. The past team members said how they had all learned more about the movement by the end of the day. All the new Cursillistas from our Cursillo last year were able to be there also and were encouraged and enjoyed the chance to reflect on their Three Days and understand better how Cursillo functions.

Since then we have held two Ultreyas, one in Hamilton and one in New Plymouth on consecutive weekends so that there is opportunity for people in both areas of our extended diocese to attend one without long road journeys.

We are still searching for a new Diocesan Lay Director. It seems that most of our Cursillistas have become very involved in their local churches which is, after all, part of our Fourth Day work. Also we are growing older and perhaps less energetic! The call to be a Lay Director worries those who are already very busy and committed. So we keep praying and looking for someone to follow in the steps of Annette Rea who has been such a glowing example to us all here.

In the meantime we have a plan for the year with a combined Ultreya in Pío Pío on 23rd June and local Ultreyas in Taranaki of 8th September and in Waikato on 15th September. We are also offering a retreat in the Tyburn Monastery near Rotorua in May.

In the words of Psalm 37:4 "Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart." we find encouragement to joyfully dwell in his presence and to trust God for the future. We trust the God not only does what is best, but knows what is ahead.

Wendy Harland - (DSD Waikato/ Taranaki.)

Dates to diary for Waikato/ Taranaki

- 23 June - Combined Ultreya - at All Saints Church, Piopio
starting at 12 Noon with a shared lunch
- 8 Sept - Taranaki Ultreya (venue to be advised)
starting at 12 Noon with a shared lunch
- 15 Sept - Waikato Ultreya, in Hamilton
venue and details to be advised

~~~~~

The Taranaki Ultreya on Saturday 17 March was very encouraging. A good turnout of 22 including some Cursillistas we have not seen for a little while. Started with a sumptuous shared lunch and vibrant fellowship, followed by the usual Ultreya format of wonderful songs, well sung, news of the upcoming retreat in May, advice about Cursillistas taking advantage of Spiritual Direction, and a break-out into group reunions. While there was no specific speaker this time, the gathering enjoyed the atmosphere and music, and information sharing. Praise the Lord. Let's look forward to a combined Waikato and Taranaki Ultreya in Piopio in June.

***Henry Ford wrote, 'When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it!' Trust that in all things, God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28).***

## Cursillo Reflection

Yes, I'll come I said, knowing nothing much about it. My mother said, "I've been on one – it's great. You should go!"

A busy week of teaching, home to pack. Goodbye to my family and a short drive later I arrived.

A tall friendly lady welcomed me in the carpark and showed me my room – cosy and inviting.

Already time for dinner, so I sat with many new faces. Interesting conversations and delicious food. A bell rang – time to go to the first session I thought.

Everyone gathered to worship, and we were welcomed.

"Time for chapel", someone said.

"Oh, I thought I was going to bed!"

Chapel was a special time of me remembering that we are the Body of Christ.....then off to bed.

A bell rang loudly in my sleep – time to rise and shine!

Off to Chapel again – some singing and prayers.

"Wow, I thought. These people are very keen!"

Struggling to learn a new song in Spanish as we walked to breakfast.....  
(I think you know the one).

This was the beginning of 2 more days of learning, building new friendships and being loved by a community of caring people. I really enjoyed our table group; thanks Charles, Brendon and Inez – our discussions and pictures were awesome! The Emmaus walk was also another highlight.

May our God lead us all on to grow in our faith and touch the lives of those around us.

*Hebrews 13v21 May the God of peace provide you with every good thing you need in order to do His will, and may he through Jesus Christ do in us what pleases Him.*

Jenny Webber, WTC15

## Pause for Prayer

Many years ago, while living in Phoenix, Arizona, I was the human mommy to a Golden Retriever, Tally, and a jet black Labrador, Shadow. They were both desperately loved, well trained, obedient, well mannered, a pleasure to be around, and a delight to take anywhere on or off leash. They were very special.

One Sunday morning, at my church, it came time in the service to invite corporate prayer. There were the normal requests seeking prayer for an ageing grandmother, a family member facing surgery, someone needing help in job-hunting, and so on. One young lady tentatively spoke up, "My dog Kiley has valley fever and is seriously ill; please pray for his recovery." The prayer session continued and included a petition for Kiley's well-being.

Later that same day when I was preparing the food bowls for Tally and Shadow, as usual they sat quietly until I placed the bowls on the floor and gave them the signal that, "It's yours." But this day something made me stop. I knelt down and took one paw from Tally and one paw from Shadow. Then I prayed – from their point of view – "Dear Lord, thank you for Momma Jas, thank you for all your animals, please heal Kiley, thank you for our food. Amen."

Tally and Shadow were not phased by this intercession. Their paws were returned to them and I said, "It's yours." Without fuss they proceeded to eat their dinner. Nice one.

Next morning, I prepared their bowls for breakfast. The bowls were placed on the floor, and the usual invitation given, "It's yours." Tally approached his bowl and ate. Shadow remained in situ and raised her paw. Literally, she invited me to pray!!! So, I took her paw, saying, "Thank you for my food. Amen." Then, Shadow was quite ready to eat.

Paws for Prayer!

De Colores,  
Jasmine, Registrar -Waikato/Taranaki Combined Cursillo

PS: Kiley did make a full recovery but that is not always the case with valley fever.

*Photo on page 30...*

## SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

It is without hesitation that I recommend Spiritual Direction to every Cursillista (not to mention Christian) as an aid to spiritual growth. I have been receiving such direction for a number of years now and have found that it assists me greatly, particularly in the area of Piety which, as an accompaniment to Bible Study, and Prayer, in turn impacts on my Study and Apostolic Action.

My Spiritual Director listens attentively to me as I relate my daily triumphs and struggles, my innermost thoughts and fears. I am encouraged to discover where and how God is working in my life, to reflect and to dig deep and to therefore deepen my relationship with God.

Our relationship – that of my Spiritual Director and me – is based upon mutual respect and trust. I am grateful for the wisdom, insight and discernment of my Spiritual Director and that I am challenged and held accountable for my life as a Christian. I am gently guided and provided with advice and practical suggestions which I may, or may not, choose to act upon.

I am discovering the Kingdom of God within, those depths waiting to be explored, the heart of God and the living water that sustains me. Without a Spiritual Director I would have continued to flounder in the shallows, but now I am assisted, at our monthly meetings, in gaining access to those deep wells. My Spiritual Director has the skills to help me dredge through the dross and to discover the treasure within my own heart.

Sheelagh Wood - Christchurch Combined 5

***Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today.  
LET US BEGIN!***

## Hot Cross Buns

### **Bun Ingredients**

15g dried yeast  
300ml milk  
4 cups plain white flour  
1 teaspoon cinnamon  
90g butter cut into pieces  
1/4 cup sugar  
1 cup dried sultanas  
1 egg

### **Cross Batter**

1/2 cup flour  
5 tablespoons of water

### **Glaze**

1/2 cup water  
1/4 cup sugar



Heat milk until just warm in a saucepan. Remove from heat and sprinkle yeast over the milk and set to the side on the bench. Sift flour and cinnamon. Add butter and rub in using your fingers until mixture looks like breadcrumbs. Then add sultanas and sugar. Whisk egg into milk and yeast. Then add the milk mixture to the flour mixture. Mix until combined.

Place mixture onto lightly floured board and knead until smooth and elastic (about 10 minutes). Place dough in a large greased bowl. Cover and leave to rise in a warm place. It is ready once it has doubled in size, which should take about 45 minutes. Punch down dough to release gas and then knead for a couple of minutes. Cut dough into 16 pieces of the same size. Knead and form into balls. Place balls together on a greased tray. Cover and place in warm spot and allow to double in size.

Turn on oven and preheat to 220 degrees C. Whisk the cross batter of flour and water together until smooth. Place in piping bag. (I use a small plastic bag and cut off a small bottom corner). Pipe on the crosses.

Bake at 220 degrees C for 10 minutes. Turn the oven down to 200 degrees C and bake for a further 10 minutes.

Place glaze ingredients in a sauce pan and bring the boil stirring constantly. Then reduce heat to low and allow to simmer for a further 2 minutes. Brush liberally over buns once they are removed from the oven.

Enjoy!

## Wellington Diocese

I'm Paul, Wellington's new DLD - having the great privilege and tough job of continuing on from the fabulous Tanya. We've been blessed by her enthusiasm, talent and good humour (I'm enthusiastically humorous - not sure if that will help ;-)).

It's a big year for Wellington Cursillistas...

We have Women's and Men's 42 all teamed up and ready to rock (a lovely bunch of folk too - no surprise there). Our Cursillos happen a little later in the year this time - we've moved out of the middle of winter to spring. Not a hard decision, especially when you think of some of the early starts.

The other big news for us (and all Cursillo really) is the 30th Birthday - 20 October - please see if you can join us all and share in the memories and moments that this gift of Cursillo has given us all. Here's the Invite (<http://cursillo.org.nz/downloads/wellington/cursillo-wgtn-30th-birthday-invitation.pdf>). While it's called a Wellington Birthday we all know it's really NZ's Birthday as it was start for us all. As you're reading this, I'd like you to stop and remember your own Cursillo and some of those glorious moments when God was close to you in those goose-bump ways... and then again when you've shared with others about their experience. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful and unique gift to share - Yee haa!

Thinking back on those early days, we lost a pretty special veteran at the beginning of the year... Doug Weaver (Dad) has completed his 4th day. Mum and Dad were part of the team who brought Cursillo from Australia on behalf of Bishop Brian. Some of you 'veteran' veterans will have likely done your Cursillo with Dad/Mum on team. It was lovely to have so many Cursillistas sing him off at the funeral.

Safe to say, like all of you, we're not going to run out of things to do this year. Special thanks to David and Glenda for their enthusiasm, hard work and faithfulness - we're blessed to have them.

Arohanui and De Colores  
Paul Weaver – DLD Wellington





## A BALANCED LIFE?

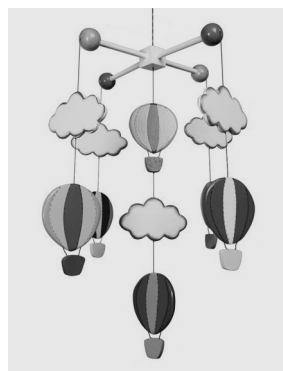
I remember reading about the importance of having a balanced life many years ago. I was impressed with the words about having just the right amount of sleep, fresh air, healthy eating and life-giving relationships. And to be honest, I guess I thought it made sense in those days. Balance is good.

But nowhere did the article even suggest that other vital ingredient. God.

For many people there is a growing awareness of their spirituality – a wonderful word which covers a multitude of beliefs and an equal number of errors. For Christians, the whole package of who we are and how we live is bound up in the life of Christ.

David and I have become proud grandparents again over the last month – little Brynn was born into a loving home with besotted parents and adoring grandparents. She will flourish knowing she is a beloved child of God and that is balanced out by the love and care she is already receiving from her family.

It seems to me that a balanced life hangs by a thread. Just as a baby's mobile hangs and sways in the currents of air, so our life moves and sways in the currents of life itself. And I find myself pondering how much I allow the breath of God to touch me as opposed to the breeze of the world. Pull one brightly coloured object off the mobile and it quickly becomes unbalanced – frantically bobbing and swinging all over the place. But, remarkably, after a busy period of toing and froing, it does resume a new type of balance.



So it is with our lives. If any one part becomes overloaded or injured in any way, then our inner peace and spiritual/emotional equilibrium is likely to swing all over the place as our spirit tries valiantly to reconnect with God and limp along at the same time.

What happens when there is no let up? When the stress, pain, frustration and despair keep on building up? When the mobile is continually pulled and poked? When issues and busy-ness crowd out the soft gentle breath of God?

A child's mobile is best swaying gently in the breeze. I am God's child. I am at my best when sustained and moved by the breath of God.

As I write, we are nearing Holy Week and many of us will have travelled a Lenten journey towards the cross. Jesus hung on a cross. Arms outstretched in a vivid picture of love and obedience. His life for our souls. May we know that inner peace that comes from listening to and heeding God's word spoken to us, and may we move more and more in response to the Spirit.

Robyn McLay - DSD Wellington Diocese



## SERVANT COMMUNITY

*Dear friends in Christ,*

***"Those of you who want to be a leader must be a servant – I did not come to be served, but to serve and to give my life as a ransom for many." Matthew 20: 26-27.***

**KEEP LISTENING - KEEP LEARNING - KEEP SHARING - KEEP SERVING**

I just learned today that the word "SERVE" shows up over 300 times in the Bible! As Cursillistas, we have been magically handed the perfect opportunity to perform all these directives in the most humble, joyful and meaningful way – through our love for one another, remembering that Christ is counting on each of us to do His work, and we have been given the perfect vehicle – our 4th Day! We

have another Cursillo Weekend coming up in May. We can sponsor, we can participate in many hands-on and/or prayerful ways. As a member of our Servant Community, I hope that you consider serving Christ and our Servant Community at the same time.

After we attend our Weekend we usually have a stirring desire, to want more of the wonderful experience we have just had for the last three days. I know I did, and thank you, thank you Jesus I jumped in with both feet – and guess what? It has been a joyful, spirit-filled growth in my Christian life that has been a constant love in my heart since my blessed Cursillo Weekend in May 1980.

The lives that have been touched, the opportunities and experiences that have opened for me to listen, learn, share and serve have planted wondrous gifts in my heart. These happy things can be yours, too. All you have to do is to reach out and allow yourself to grow and flourish in your 4th Day. We have to take the first step – reach out and embrace each opportunity that seems right for you.

Try coming to a Servant Community Reunion/Meeting and give it a try; there is no obligation, just an opportunity. We meet the first Saturday morning of September and February (weather permitting) at 9:45 A.M. at Trinity Church library in Canton until noon. We enjoy snacks before opening prayer, teaching, sharing and planning our 4th Day activities. We work closely with the Secretariat and together we enjoy the unfolding blessings of Cursillo.

Please think about taking advantage of joining Servant community and having a rewarding experience in your ongoing 4th day.

Thank you, Thank you Jesus

*From THE TRIPOD newsletter of the Massachusetts Cursillo Community by Bikini Wright, Servant Community Coordinator.*

## What is Cursillo?

*Summarised from NEC library document "What is Cursillo" (2003) by David Prosser*

Cursillo is intended to help Christians learn and live what is fundamental as a Christian.

... to help them discover and live out a personal vocation.

Its goal is to bring the world to Christ by:

... empowering adult Christian leaders...

... through the use of a specific method ...

... which equips and encourages ...

*Cursillo* = "a short course" – such as one would run in a race (not an intellectual exercise).

Cursillo is intended to make both:

- Saints – people who know... God's love & grace ...who live life from this relationship.
- Apostles – saints who have a mission to share [that knowledge] with others.

*"We are blessed in order that we may be a blessing for others."* (Gen 12:2)

- Cursillo language is action-oriented.
- Cursillo is a movement of the whole church.
- Cursillo uses a distinctive method (see below).
- Cursillo intends to create groups of Christians bringing Christ into the world and bringing the world to Christ.

**The Cursillo method** (in a nutshell):

Pre-Cursillo:

Episcopal patronage and pastoral planning

Sponsorship

Organisational structures

## Cursillo:

The 3-day Weekend (the centrepiece, but not the “main thing”)

## The Fourth Day: (the “main thing”)

Spiritual Direction

Group Reunion

Ultreya

## **Strategic Goals for Cursillo in NZ –**

*by David Prosser (co-NLD)*

The National Secretariat (NZACC) has several responsibilities – one is to co-ordinate the direction of the Cursillo Movement in New Zealand.

Over the last year we’ve been working together on getting the basics right and encouraging all Cursillistas to take their 4<sup>th</sup> Day seriously. To this end we are progressively developing national Goals and Action Plans, which each Diocesan Secretariat will further refine and implement. These currently cover the following key topics:

- **Spiritual Direction** – increasing use of this key element of the Cursillo method
- **4th Day Group Reunions** – increasing involvement of both veterans and recent pilgrims
- **Sponsorship/Companioning** – more of us being more intentional about who we invite
- **Ultreyas** – varying the formats, making these more accessible, enjoyable, and worthwhile

Expect to receive more communication at all levels on these key topics.

De colores!

David (Christchurch C2)

## CHRISTCHURCH DIOCESE

I must confess that as I come to write this report there don't seem to have been many actual Cursillo events in this neck of the woods to report on. This is because an amazing amount of work has gone on, and is still going on, behind the scenes getting ready for Combined 21 to take place at Blue Skies, Kaiapoi, 26 - 29 April. The Lay Director, Mike Bowler, managed to get his team together relatively early and it is pleasing to see that over half the team is male. Please pray for prospective pilgrims and all the details that remain to be done.

Post-quake ( the now standard way of measuring time in Christchurch ) we seem to have had one Cursillo weekend a year usually in the Spring. With our 3-day weekend at the end of April this year, this should leave time at the end of the year to do something different. I'm not sure what this will involve, but hopefully the Secretariat will have our praying/thinking caps on and our enthusiastic Cursillistas will have lots of ideas.

Easter will soon be here and shops have been reminding us of the more commercial aspects since mid-January. More recently church group have been doing Lenten studies based on the theme of 'Hope'. This reminds me of one of my favourite Bible verses -  
**"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead . .  
" ( 1Peter 1:3 ).**

Happy Easter!

Stephanie Johnston - DLD ( Christchurch )



## Exploring Doubt

As a young woman I holidayed from time to time over on the West Coast with my fiancé's extended family. They had the use of a large paddock from the beginning of summer through till Easter and would set up a tent city there – the workers going into town and returning each night and during the Christmas break the whole family would live there. There was a stream running through one corner of the paddock with a very deep swimming hole. Over the swimming hole there was a convenient branch on which they tied a rope, so you could swing out, let go of the rope, fly through the air and drop right into the deepest part of the pool. I didn't mind watching, but there was no way I was going to have a go. I was petrified – I was not a strong swimmer and the thought of that leap was just too much. What if I didn't swing out far enough and landed in a shallow part of the hole - or maybe I would swing too far and land on the other side amongst the manuka and or on the rocky side of the stream so No, No, No.

And even though I saw friends and relatives (to be) jump in one after another I couldn't get rid of my doubt and fear.

I don't regret not jumping - I made a safe decision! But I do regret not going into that deep water at the bottom. swimming down into the darkness where I could not see and exploring the dark myself - just maybe if I explored my doubts and ventured to the bottom I would have the confidence to jump from the top.

Thinking about writing for this issue and the time it would be printed and distributed set me thinking about Easter, and about the coming Cursillo weekend in Christchurch. Many of the Pilgrims will have experienced doubt as they set out on that three-day weekend and I wondered not for the first time how Jesus might have felt in those last weeks as he travelled even closer to Jerusalem.

So, I began to think - *do we explore doubt enough?* As clergy (some of us) Cursillistas, leaders and people of influence do we encourage others to explore their uncertainty? Not just give people permission to

doubt, not just accept their doubt but actually encourage it?

So often I think that many people believe that doubt is the opposite of faith. That when we doubt we are somehow failing in our faith in our God. And I remember again that as that same young woman who would not jump I wrote in the margin of my Salvation Army Song Book a saying by HE Fosdick "*Without a certain amount of doubt there can be no faith!*" And I remember that I have often thought that doubt means there is something lacking or something wrong with my character.

But the older I become and the more I read my Bible the more I see that it is full of people who doubted. A good third of the Psalms is unresolved doubt. Lamentations is an entire book letting us know of Israel's questioning of God's goodness in the midst of injustice and suffering. Jesus' closest friends doubted him, even after He rose from the dead! The Bible doesn't just tell us who God is - it lets us explore how ordinary people like you and I have tried and struggled to understand our God.

If we are honest we have all at some time or other cried out to God, perhaps calling out for him to prove his existence or even questioning His goodness. I think that God would like us to know that this doubt we feel, this uncertainty we have in dark times, is incredibly human. I imagine some of us asking God to remove this doubt from our lives, when Jesus is really saying, "*Head into that uncertainty ... and there you will find me even more*"

As our faith matures we will learn not to ignore the doubt and begin to acknowledge its reality and even step into its uncertainty. It's only when we go into the dark of the doubt ourselves and explore what is there that we begin to grow the courage and faith to make the jump.

I am afraid that doesn't sound like a joyful Easter message. However, as we approach Easter and Holy Week I am reminded that often life seems scary, dark even overwhelming and "too much" for us to handle. Again, I ask, how did Jesus feel in those last weeks as he drew



near to Jerusalem? I am reminded that because of his determination to do the will of His Father we can be assured that our circumstances do not determine God's presence.

God is not weakened by our weakness nor disappointed by our doubt. Instead, he is our stable place, a refuge from every storm, the strong shelter when all about is shaken and broken.

Here is a poem I found - not about jumping into a pool - even worse perhaps!

#### A CONVERSATION WITH JESUS THE JUMPMASER

Skydiving?

Me?

You must be joking?

No?

You *really* expect me to jump out of a plane?

What do you mean, 'Not alone?'

You would be there too?

So ... I'd be yoked within your harness

strapped in really tightly

enfolded in your strength

dependent on your wisdom.

guided by your words

relaxed by your warm laughter.

empowered to take the risk

freed to soar and fly!

Promise you won't drop me?

Okay, then. I'll try!

De Colores!

Lynnette Lightfoot, DSD Christchurch



## DUNEDIN DIOCESE

In the Dunedin Diocese we have just had our first Ultreya for 2018. This was held in Gore in February and was a very enjoyable day. We started the day with morning tea and then moved into the church where we started with a Witness Talk given by Abraham Visagie. Abraham is a new Cursillista who attended Cursillo in October 2017. He gave a very interesting, moving talk. Rev Vivienne Galletly responded to this talk in her usual interesting way. We then broke for Floating Group Reunions followed by lunch.

We were also very fortunate to hear from the Lay Director for Cursillo #22 – Pete Masters. He is in the process of organising a Team for Labour Weekend. The Cursillo is to be held at the Iona Camp Ground, Herbert. Somewhere we haven't been to before but are looking forward to a wonderful weekend.

Anne Gover gave us a very interesting talk on Sponsorship which we hope to hear at each Ultreya till Labour Weekend.

The next Ultreya will be at Alexandra on Saturday May 19th.

Our Secretariat meetings to date have been held at lunch time during Ultreya's. As Cursillo #22 gets closer we may have extra meetings to help Pete and the team with matters that may arise.

David and Glenda Prosser – National Co Lay Directors – are travelling round this Diocese later in March and the beginning of April. We have meetings organised for them in Queenstown, Invercargill, Gore, Dunedin and Oamaru where we look forward to listening and sharing with them.

Easter Blessings.

Margaret and Craig McLanachan  
Dunedin Diocese Co Lay Directors

*Photo's on page 30...*



## HOW IS YOUR TENACITY TODAY?

In September Kathy and I had a three-day mini-vacation at a guest house on the coast of Maine. One morning a man at the next breakfast table was wearing a tee shirt with the word 'RENACITY' scrawled across the front. I was intrigued, and asked him what the word meant, so he told me this story.

Recently their six-year-old granddaughter was being taught some new words to expand her vocabulary. Two of the words her parents were teaching her were tenacity and resilience. Later, when they asked her to repeat the words, all she could remember was 'renacity'. She had combined tenacity, which you might call stick-to-it-iveness, and resilience, the ability to bounce back. All she could remember was a combination of the two words. He was so tickled by her response that he had the tee shirt made.

Hmmm . . . tenacity and resilience.

These two attitudes are helpful in our fourth day faith walk. We want to be tenacious in our faith and actions, no matter what difficulties arise. And yet we have down times when we feel away from our Lord and need resilience to bounce back. We want again to experience the joy of worship, the insight of study, and the adventure of action.

As fourth day Cursillistas, our plan is to be steady in our piety, study, and apostolic action. But sometimes something gets in the way and throws us off the track. It might be a temptation, a perceived insult, a setback in work or family, or even a happy event. It can be anything that directs our attention to this world and the issues we face in it and takes our eyes off our Lord. A book on prayer I recently read gave this example: "But what about

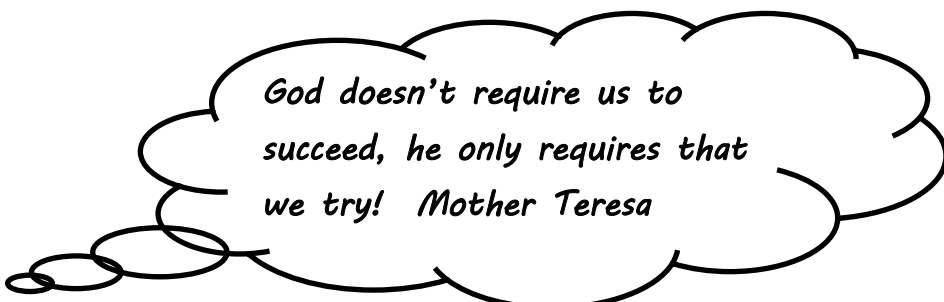
those times that feel decidedly unspiritual – when we have a confrontation with the children or a disagreement with our spouse, for instance?

In any case, something distracts us, and we fall away. We slack off in that time of prayer, or omit that Bible reading, or don't make that call to someone who needs to hear from us. What do we do? Just ride out the storm, and hope the days get better? This is where resilience comes in. It's the ability to recover and return to our fourth day practices. God recognizes we're off the track and guides us back. Our Lord can use many things to recapture our attention. Maybe help will come through the kindness of a friend, a Bible passage that speaks to us, a chance to show the Lord's love to someone else.

Whatever it is, the resilience in our faith guides us, giving us the ability to return to the actions and practices that keep us close to our Lord.

So, to have tenacity is to stick to our plan or beliefs or course of action. And to have resilience is to bounce back to them when we go off track. My hope for you and for myself is that our Lord will guide us in continuing 'Renacity' as we walk with him day by day.

*From THE TRIPOD Newsletter of the Diocese of Massachusetts  
Cursillo movement by Jack Foster.*



*God doesn't require us to  
succeed, he only requires that  
we try! Mother Teresa*



## **An Ode to Creation and The Creator**

The man on the bike  
who wants to be liked  
cries out "hello, hello".

The Monarch butterflies  
seem to utter the same  
call "hello, hello", in their silent way.

It is as if The Great "I AM"  
is calling to His people  
"Hello, hello here I AM!"  
and I am about to make a new Creation  
and my call has gone out!"

*By Trish Shannon*

*This is a personal reflection of recent  
circumstances.*



Pete Masters and Anne Gover at the first  
Ultreya for the Dunedin Diocese for 2018



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