

DE COLORES MAGAZINE

BRISBANE ARCHDIOCESE

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CHRISTMAS EDITION



**Blessings of Our Lord Jesus Christ
to you and your family**

~ A Message from our Outgoing President ~

The ending of a year is a reminder of the endings and beginnings in our lives. As one door closes another opens. This heralds the moment, the threshold to another opportunity. This moment, this threshold can be known as the 'liminal space'. The time of waiting.

As we enter the Advent season we are invited into this space – into the waiting and the threshold of the moments that herald new beginnings, the Christmas season. It gives us space for preparation. Preparation for the joy of Christmas. This threshold towards the end of year can provide us with the chance to notice what and who matters to us. Look around you and smile at the person across from you, next to you.

There are moments in life where circumstance forces us to change. As Cursillistas, we can make the choice to enter this liminal space - the threshold with joyful memory and joyful anticipation of the birth of our Saviour.

At Christmas, for Christians, the birth of Jesus is a sign of hope and love to each of us and to our world. In light of the natural disasters recently endured and enduring, this hope and love is needed more than ever. As one door opens and another closes on the year, I hope that each of us can take the opportunity to lead lives conscious of the goodness and love of our God.

For me personally, and for my family I have found myself on the threshold of a door and have stepped down from the role of Brisbane President. I take this opportunity to thank all who have supported me in this role, who have admonished, encouraged, prayed for and with me. I have complete faith in the joyful memories I hold, the joyful anticipation of what is next and the unceasing love of our God, born again in us, for us and with us. I thank Peter McMahon for stepping through the open door waiting for him and confident he is the right person at the right time for this space.

I wish you all deep peace in the liminal spaces of your lives and blessings of joy and hope for Christmas.

De Colores
David



Quotable Quote

Christmas is the perfect time to celebrate the love of God and family and to create memories that will last forever. Jesus is God's perfect, indescribable gift. The amazing thing is that not only are we able to receive this gift, but we are able to share it with others at Christmas and on every other day of the year.

Joel Osteen



~ A Message from our New President ~

Our outgoing President, David McLean, speaks about Advent as a time for waiting, a time for reflection, a time for hope and also a time for preparation.

These thoughts reflect very well what has been going through my mind over the past few months. This last year has seen two teams, one women's and one men's, go through a preparation process for the 3 day Cursillos which were to be held at Glendalough in October. Unfortunately, these had to be cancelled due to lack of candidates.

At the same time as we were preparing for these Cursillos, my Guardian Angel's Parish at Wynnum was going through a "Parish Renewal" process as a result of our deliberations on the Plenary Council submissions our Parish had submitted to the Archdiocese.

This renewal process is ongoing. It has made us stop and look more closely at what sort of Parish we want to be. Are we the Church community that welcomes strangers, looks after the poor? Are we respectful of each other, are we a praying community, do we show God's love to everyone we meet?

I believe it is time, that we, as the Brisbane Cursillo Movement, do the same, that we stop and look at all aspects of what we are trying to do in our Archdiocese. Why haven't we had a Cursillo 3 days for the past few years? How do we build up our Cursillo community? How do we make it the vibrant, loving community that it has been in the past and hopefully will be in the future?

I believe strongly that our Movement can and should play a vital role for evangelisation in our Archdiocese.

To that end, the School of Leaders have decided to spend the next few months looking at every aspect of our Movement, the Pre Cursillo, the Cursillo 3 days and our Post Cursillo.

We are going to hold a "strategic planning" meeting towards the end of January next year to begin this process. This meeting will include all members of the School of Leaders but is open to all. I am sure there are others in our community who have the gifts, the strengths, the ability to contribute greatly to this process.

On behalf of the School of Leaders, I extend an invitation to all the Cursillo family to join with us, definitely in prayer, but also physically. Come and take the opportunity to walk through the door David talked about.

At our creation, God gave us all the gifts, the talents we would need throughout our life. He wants us to use those gifts to become the best person we can be. He wants us to share those gifts with each other in building up the kingdom of God. He wants us to let everyone know that "God loves them".

Will you join us in 2020 in making the Cursillo Movement come alive in our Archdiocese.

De Colores

Peter McMahon



Our Vision

"We are a Catholic community committed to growing closer to Christ by living the Gospel message and by encouraging others to join us in making a positive difference in the world."

Our Mission

"To let all in our environments know that God loves them through friendship and by the way we live our lives."

~ *A Message from the Diocesan
Spiritual Adviser* ~

At the conclusion of one liturgical year and the threshold of the new year with the beginning of Advent, it is good and right to consider the final major feast for this year - Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. It is easy to miss this celebration in the excited push towards Christmas. The scriptures for this past Sunday's feast are a treasure trove of images of God's vision for kingship. David as the shepherd and leader of God's people. Christ as the one through whom all is created - even thrones, dominions, sovereignties, powers - to hold all things in being, to bring peace and reconciliation to the whole universe - the whole of creation.

But where do we come into the picture? What role do we play as subjects in this eternal kingdom? One way to find out is to look at the Preface for this feast. Here we see a vision for the kingdom...

*It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For you anointed your Only Begotten Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ, with the oil of gladness
as eternal Priest and King of all creation,
so that, by offering himself on the altar of the Cross
as a spotless sacrifice to bring us peace,
he might accomplish the mysteries of human redemption
and, making all created things subject to his rule,
he might present to the immensity of your majesty
an eternal and universal kingdom,
**a kingdom of truth and life,
a kingdom of holiness and grace,
a kingdom of justice, love and peace.***

*And so, with Angels and Archangels,
with Thrones and Dominions,
and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven,
we sing the hymn of your glory,
as without end we acclaim:*

A kingdom of truth and life. A kingdom of holiness and grace. A kingdom of justice, love and peace. This is it - beautiful and poetic. It is a vision for the kingdom and, therefore, a vision for us. As subjects and participants in Christ's kingdom, we are called to be instruments of truth, life, holiness, grace, justice, love and peace. We are called to be signs of what the kingdom stands for. We are called to share all of this with people of every language and nation. Where do we start?

We could volunteer to take communion to the sick. We could volunteer to assist with religious instruction in state schools. We could support St Vincent de Paul as they strive to help people during this crucial time leading up to Christmas. Yes, we can participate through the contribution of financial resources. But that's not all. We can also contribute with our time and talent.

If you're not sure how you can help, ask someone who is already involved in these good works! There's always something we can do. These are just a few ways we can help reveal the Kingdom in our world and participate in Christ's vision. It is this visible kind of participation that helps invite people into a deeper relationship with Christ.

We have a role to play. We are not called to be passive. We are called to be as active as we can! This is how we praise Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.



Fr Peter Gablonski.

From the National President

We have just finished one liturgical year and find ourselves in the wonderful season of anticipation, Advent. But just for a moment, I want to cast a glance back at the final Sunday of the year, the Feast of Christ the King.

Much of the commentary I have read over the years on this feast day focuses on the idea of internalising Christ as King of our hearts, minds and wills. All very sound, theologically, I'm sure. There is the Gospel describing the Crucifixion, which demonstrates how Jesus turns the worldly, human idea of kingship on its head.

Then there is St Paul and his letter to the Colossians:

“He is the image of the unseen God
and the first-born of all creation,
for in him were created
all things in heaven and on earth”.

It is the majesty in this image that I want to keep in mind as we journey through Advent. It reminds me of one of the best Midnight Mass homilies I ever heard at Christmas, delivered by the late Bishop John Geary, who talked about the Lord of the Universe, Creator of the Cosmos appearing on earth in the middle of the night as a tiny, helpless baby. It is a wondrous thing, that the Lord of all eternity would choose to restrict Himself to space and time.

Of course, He didn't just appear out of the blue. His mother had carried Him in her womb for nine months. No doubt Mary and Joseph had spent the months of her pregnancy preparing the little house in Nazareth for His arrival. But, as we all know the story, they had to leave Nazareth and travel to Bethlehem for the census. When the Creator of the World appeared, the world could only offer Him the humblest accommodation. As we see so often, God has a habit of confounding human plans and standards.

In the coming weeks, we will hear much from the prophet Isaiah and much about the last of Israel's prophets, John the Baptist. Let us listen attentively and consider these characters as we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Saviour.

Have a happy Advent and a Happy and Holy Christmas.

De Colores

TERRIE



REMEMBER:

The seed of the Holy Spirit was planted in us all. For seeds to germinate they need light, water and nourishment. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are the true source of light, water and nourishment. Your countless ideas, visions and dreams are these seeds. Inviting the Trinity into your soul will bring forth the abundant harvest within. There is no rushing them. Just be ready for their arrival. In the meantime, let the Trinity prepare your soul as a flourishing garden our Lord's ideal life.



TAKE CARE – From Pope Francis

Take care of your spiritual life, your relationship with God, because this is the backbone of everything we do and everything we are.

Take care of your family life, giving your children and loved ones not just money, but most of all your time, attention and love.

Take care of your relationships with others, transforming your faith into life and your words into good works, especially on behalf of the needy.

Be careful how you speak, purify your tongue of offensive words, vulgarity and worldly decadence.

Heal the wounds of the heart with the oil of forgiveness, forgiving those who have hurt us and medicating the wounds we have caused others.

Take care of brothers and sisters who are weaker...., the elderly, the sick and the hungry, the homeless and the strangers, because we will be judged on this.

From <https://cnsblog.wordpress.com/2015/01/01/pope-francis-suggested-new-years-resolutions/>



ADVENT:

Advent is a season observed as a time of **expectant waiting and preparation** for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas. The term is a version of the Latin word meaning "coming". The term "Advent" is also used in Eastern Orthodoxy for the 40-day Nativity Fast, which has practices different from those in the West.

Latin *adventus* is the translation of the Greek word *parousia* commonly used to refer to the Second Coming of Christ. For Christians, the season of Advent anticipates the coming of Christ from three different perspectives. Since the time of Bernard of Clairvaux (d.1153) Christians have spoken of the three comings of Christ: in the flesh in Bethlehem, in our hearts daily, and in glory at the end of time. The season offers the opportunity to share in the ancient longing for the coming of the Messiah, and to be alert for his Second Coming.

Advent is the beginning of the Western liturgical year and commences on the fourth Sunday before Christmas (sometimes known as Advent Sunday), the Sunday nearest to St Andrew's Day (30 November), in the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, the Western Rite of the Orthodox Church, and in the Anglican, Lutheran, Moravian, Presbyterian and Methodist calendars. In the Ambrosian Rite and the Mozarabic Rite of the Catholic Church, Advent begins on the sixth Sunday before Christmas, the Sunday after St Martin's Day (11 November).

Practices associated with Advent include keeping an Advent Calendar, lighting an Advent Wreath, praying an Advent daily devotional, lighting a Christ Light, as well as other ways of preparing for Christmas, such as setting up Christmas Decorations, a custom that is sometimes done liturgically, through a hanging of the greens ceremony.

The equivalent of Advent in Eastern Christianity is called the Nativity Fast, but it differs in length and observances, and does not begin the liturgical church year as it does in the West. The Eastern Nativity Fast does not use the equivalent *parousia* in its preparatory services.



AN EXAMPLE OF EVANGELISATION

MEDITATION ON SCRIPTURE WORDS

Let your light shine before others (Mt. 5:16)

Mahatma Gandhi once told a Christian friend, "I like your Christ, but I do not like your Christians. Your Christians are so unlike your Christ." In a similar vein, the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche once said that if he saw more redeemed people he might be inclined to believe in their Redeemer.

What a sobering reflection of the witness of the Church in their day! Neither Gandhi nor Nietzsche saw enough believers' lights shining to convince them that the Gospel message really does have the power to change people's lives.

That's the challenge of the Gospel reading from Matthew (Mt 5: 13-16): to show the joy, the love, and the peace of Jesus to people like Gandhi and Nietzsche. It's the challenge for each of us to live "like Christ" and to show the world just how distinctive and fulfilling a redeemed life can be. In a very real way, our credibility – as well as the credibility of Jesus' message – is on the line every single day. And a credibility gap hinders our ability to help other people come to embrace Jesus in their hearts.

Here's a true story. Jim, a devout Catholic, moved into a home next door to a wealthy Muslim family. They enjoyed a friendly cordial relationship. Over the course of the next year, the Muslim family business imploded, and they had to declare bankruptcy. They lost everything. They were living in the house, waiting to be evicted, with little food or money. What's worse, all of their friends had abandoned them.

But Jim and his wife acted differently. They emptied their refrigerator and pantry, and gave as much as they could to their struggling neighbours. They also loaned them money. They continued doing this for nearly a year, until things turned around, and the family gradually dug their way out of bankruptcy.

As moving as this is, here is the best part: the whole family became Christians – all because of the love of Jim and his wife.

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PRAY FOR THE CHURCH:

Please pray for the Pope, Cardinals and Bishops of the church hierarchy that The Holy Spirit will guide them to make the necessary urgent changes to the culture and structure of the Catholic Church enabling it to regain the trust and confidence of the people it needs to fulfil its mission here on earth.

Pope Francis: We need a free and simple outward looking Church

Pope Francis on Saturday receives those taking part in the International Meeting "Evangelii Gaudium: Reception and Perspectives. The "Church which goes forth"". Over the last three days participants including Bishops, religious and lay people from all over the world have been gathered in the Vatican to discuss the Pope's Apostolic Exhortation six years on from its publication.



"I would like to say very simply: the joy of the Gospel springs from the encounter with Jesus." Those were the Pope's words on Saturday in the newly restored Hall of Benedictions in the Vatican.

Speaking to participants taking part in this International Meeting organized by the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, he said, "We need a free and simple Church, which does not think of looking good, of convenience and of entrances, but outward looking "

The need to proclaim the Gospel arises spontaneously

"It is when we encounter the Lord that we are flooded with that love of which he alone is capable". At that point, Pope Francis went on to say, "the need to proclaim the Gospel arises spontaneously and becomes irrepressible."

"This is how evangelization began, on Easter morning", the Pope explained, "with a woman, Mary Magdalene who, after meeting the risen Jesus, the Living One, evangelized the Apostles."

"The experience of so many people today is not far from that of Mary of Magdala. Nostalgia for God, for an infinite and true love, is rooted in the heart of every man", he said.

The Pope stressed that, "to live you need the God of love." If that love was constantly in our hearts, he added, we would not breathe indifference or be wrapped up in a culture of consumerism.

Those who evangelize, stressed the Pontiff, "can never forget that they are always on the road, searching with others."

Follow new paths

During his address, Pope Francis said we must not "hold back our fear of making mistakes and our fear of following new paths."

"Our poverties are not obstacles", he commented, "but precious instruments, because God's grace loves to manifest itself in weakness".

Concluding his speech, the Pope said that the first Christians, who everyone was against and who were persecuted for their faith should be our guide. We should, "not be saddened by things that are not going well, by labours, by misunderstandings: they are small things in the face of "the sublimity of the knowledge of Christ Jesus our Lord", Pope Francis advised.

"Let us not allow ourselves to be infected by the defeatism according to which everything goes wrong", but instead, "let us invoke its author every day, the Holy Spirit, who makes life a love story with God."

ULTREYA

Come and join us on the first Tuesday of each month.

**The next Ultreya will be held on Tuesday, 4th February 2020,
commencing at 7.30pm.**

at

**Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church
70 Appleby Road, Stafford**

Everyone is very welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

Please bring a plate to share for supper.

School of Leaders:

*The School of Leaders meets the **3rd Saturday of every month.** The venue now rotates each month. Advice will be forwarded separately each month about time and venue etc*

All Cursillistas are most welcome

PRAYERS ARE ASKED FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK OR RECOVERING

Please continue to pray for all those people who are sick or recovering. We also pray for our own family and friends suffering illness and difficulties in life at this time.

PRAYERS ARE ALSO ASKED FOR THE DECEASED

Please pray for those Cursillistas who have died since our last newsletter. Also, please pray for their families.

In God we trust



THINK:

What will you and I give for Christmas this year? Let us in our lives give to Our Lord and

Saviour the gift of gratitude by living His teachings and following in His footsteps.
[Thomas S Monson](#)

Plenary Council Prayer

Come, Holy Spirit of Pentecost.
Come, Holy Spirit of the great South Land.

O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia
and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.

Give us the grace to see your face in one another
and to recognise Jesus, our companion on the road.

Give us the courage to tell our stories
and to speak boldly of your truth.

Give us ears to listen humbly to each other
and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.

Lead your Church into a hope-filled future,
that we may live the joy of the Gospel.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
bread for the journey from age to age.

Amen.

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.
St Mary MacKillop, pray for us.



ARTICLES FOR FUTURE DE COLORES NEWSLETTERS

All articles of interest are most welcome for inclusion in future De Colores Newsletters. Please email any contributions to lout.home@gmail.com

May you all be blessed by Our Lord Jesus Christ especially during the current Advent/Christmas season and beyond.

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