



The Escarpment
Newsletter of the Wollongong Cursillo Movement

Issue 1, 2021

A PRAYER FOR EASTER EYES

My Lord Jesus,

Give me new eyes with which to recognise your presence in the world around me.

Sharpen my vision so that I see beyond the ordinary events of each day and into the extraordinary reality of your Grace.

Brighten my view of the world with renewed hope in the coming of your kingdom.

Soften my gaze so that I view others with the kind of tenderness and compassion you showed to so many.

May each day of this Easter season provide glimpses of your Glory.
In your sacred name I pray.

Amen



Gift of the Holy Spirit connects people to Christ, Pope says at audience on 17th March, 2021.



Pope Francis delivers his blessing as he leads his general audience in the library of the Apostolic Palace at the Vatican March 17, 2021. The pope spoke about the role of the Holy Spirit in making Jesus present in people's lives.

VATICAN CITY — Every Christian is unique because the Holy Spirit inspires something new and original in each person, creating *"an endless field of holiness"*.

"The one God, the Trinity of love, allows the variety of witnesses to flourish — all are equal in dignity, but also unique in the beauty that the Spirit has willed to be expressed in each of those whom God's mercy has made his children".

"The first gift of every Christian existence is the Holy Spirit." It is the key, essential gift because without the Holy Spirit, *"there is no relationship with Christ and with the Father."* The Spirit opens the human heart to Christ's presence *"and draws it into that 'vortex' of love that is the very heart of God"*.

The Holy Spirit *"dwells in us; it is he who transforms us deeply and makes us experience the moving joy of being loved by God as his true children"*.

The Spirit writes the story of the church and of the world, and *"we are open pages, available to receive his handwriting."*

"In each of us, the Spirit composes original works because there is never one Christian who is completely identical to another," creating a vast and flourishing *"field of holiness."*

The church invites the faithful to call upon the Holy Spirit every day, to make Christ present so he can guide and transform his disciples. Calling on the Spirit for support and inspiration is important, especially when one has not prayed in a long time, has lost the desire to pray or recites prayers *"like a parrot,"* with no depth of feeling or faith.

"This is the moment to say to the Spirit, 'Come. Come, Holy Spirit and warm my heart. Come, teach me to pray, teach me to look to the Father, the son, teach me the way the path of faith goes, teach me to love, and above all, teach me to have an attitude of hope."

"If Christ were far away in time, we would be alone and lost in the world," but with the Spirit, *"the possibility of encountering Christ is open to Christians of every time and place."*

Christians must *"keep alive this flame"* of the Holy Spirit, of God's love, in their heart, the same way the lamp next to the tabernacle stays lit *"even when the church empties and darkness falls, even when the church is closed."*

"No one sees it, yet it burns before the Lord," "That's how the Spirit is in our heart, always present like that lamp."

An extract from the February Witness given by Lester Smith

My witness today is about my Brother in Law – Rico Williams known as Pastor Rico. In 2019 I was lucky to spend 14 glorious days with him. It was a time I spent living in his home and spending time talking about our Lord and sharing on the scriptures. I really enjoyed this time with him as it deepened my friendship with him and my relationship with our Lord .

Since then the Covid-19 Pandemic happened, this is a really bad Pandemic especially when it affects someone close to you. Rico was rushed to hospital on 25th December 2020. I spoke to him a couple of times when he was in the hospital and discharged 33days later. It was traumatic for the entire family that included all family even us overseas. His 2nd eldest daughter Angelique Williams – she is the same age as my daughter, she documented her father's Co-vid experience from day 1.

After reading her story, I was really affected and I felt I needed to share it with you all. I feel something that affects one, automatically causes change.

This is Angelique's personal experience / This is her story

Today I would like to share my dad's journey from the moment he tested positive for Co-vid and his road to recovery. I hope my experience will encourage and give hope to every person out there that tested positive and need hope through their recovery♥💎💎

NOBODY PREPARES YOU FOR POST COVID💎💎 Co-vid came like a thief in the night and attacked the most important person in our lives, our Dad. What started as mild flu symptoms, slowly turned into coughing fits and later punching the breath out of him.

Christmas Day, 25 December 2020, was a day in my life where I thought I was losing my dad, seeing him gasp for air and tears rolling down his eyes as he tried to hang on, broke my heart into a million pieces. My dad, the person who stood beside me for the 33 years of my life. Waiting for that ambulance, with a knot in my chest. 15 Minutes they told us, and each minute felt like hours have passed. When they arrived, dad couldn't walk, his oxygen levels were below 60%. They immediately put him on oxygen, and he was starting to breathe a lot more easily. While the paramedics searched for an available bed, they took him to St Augustine's hospital. At the time we were waiting for his Co-vid results, 2 days had gone and we should have got it. In my heart, I knew my dad was positive, all the symptoms were leading me to believe he had Co-vid, I didn't want it to be true, so I searched for any sign to believe he was negative.

At the hospital, my dad waited in the emergency while they did a rapid test and other tests. They eventually discharged him at about 4pm, with a negative rapid Co-vid test, a huge sigh of relief, but at the back of my heart, I knew something was not right. Dad came home, we gave him something to eat but he barely could eat or talk and he went to bed. The nightmare happened again on Boxing Day, and all over again I thought I am losing my dad, I cried out to God, please save my dad, I need him, I need him to live. Paramedics arrived, at

that very moment, my mum called the other lab for his results and we got the news he's positive. Immediately my heart broke, Shariez said Dad you fight, you will live.

He was admitted in Al Khaadi hospital on Boxing Day, and that was the last time we saw my dad, until the 28th January 2021. 33 days had passed, we had two calls that shook us, and we got on our knees and cried to the lord, save our dad. Dad lived, and every day there was a part of him he lost, being around people that left their loved ones, crying in agony because they can't breathe and are scared, people begging to save them, people panicking, it was complete chaos and all that surrounded him was death. We stood on the other side of a building, separating us from being his anchor. My sisters and mom, we leaned on each other, every day was harder than the day before, but in this we found God, we found hope in music. We found courage in the rare but increasingly positive stories around Co-vid survivors. We held on to this and kept encouraging my dad, each day we pushed him to see hope. The day he got discharged, I will never forget the tears in his eyes, the way he had to pause to control his breathing, he walked to us. And in that moment my heart was so happy, I have my dad back.♥ At that moment I thought we could get through anything from this day forward.

The first 2 days were amazing and slowly we started becoming part of his recovery. What nobody told us was that dad needed a lot more support than we thought he would need. Recovery doesn't happen fully at the hospital, it happens at home. Dad cried every day for the first 5 days, when he came out of the shower and struggled to breathe, when he woke up and my mom wasn't next to him and he got scared or had a nightmare.

Nobody prepares you and equips you with the knowledge of how to take care of your dad post Co-vid, how to speak through the trauma, how to be there for him and just love him, even when they are so hard on themselves.

Dad had good and slow (A term we used and to replace the word bad) days during his recovery.

LOVE
heals

An extract from the March Witness given by Denise D'Amore

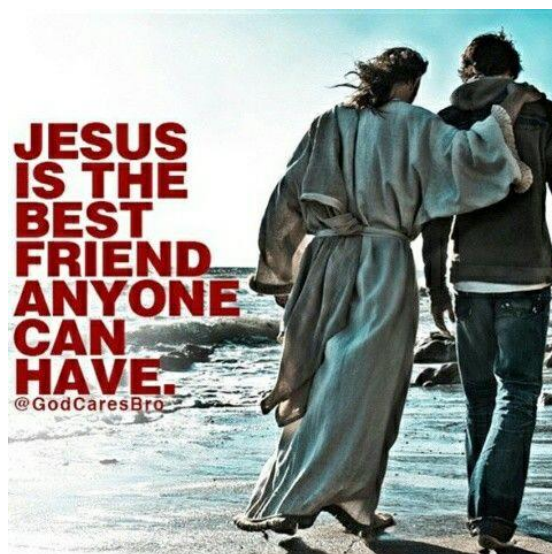
I wish to share with you today one area where God has been with me and that is the area of friendship.

I attended a Catholic girl's high school, I didn't have many friends especially a best friend.

Whenever I did get close to someone she seemed to go off with someone else. I remember when I was in year 9 or 10 a nun came to my school, I don't know where she was from, she spoke to each girl individually. She asked me what I wanted out of life and I told her I wanted a best friend. She said you will have one, you will have a best friend. I didn't think any more about it and left school at the end of year 10. I started my Nursing training at St. Josephs Auburn, I was in a lovely intake group and before long we were all friends. At some stage I realised that I had a best friend, her name was Cathy and I remembered what the nun had said a few years before.

Fast forward to 2018, this is the year my mum died, my friend Mary from church said to me I'm not very good with cards or flowers but I would like to share my mum with you. Her mum was 100 at the time and still living in the farm house at The Oaks where she brought up her 5 children. The next Sunday Mary picked me up and we went to her mum's house for lunch. Mary had brought lunch with her, the 3 of us enjoyed it together. Mary's mum played the piano for me and we sat on the veranda watching the birds on the feeder. What a special day. Mary's mum died last year during Co-vid so I couldn't attend her funeral. She was a special, much loved lady always at the centre of her family and they all revolved around her.

I believe that the Lord is there always in every part of my life and he knows my needs. My Faith has grown because of the knowledge that if I hand my life over to the Lord all my needs will be met and he will be there for me always.



THE NEXT 3 DAY WEEKEND

Will be held at Hartzer Park on the 1st to 4th July 2021



The Women's team - Our face to face training will recommence on the 10th April and continue until our Retreat day on the 26th June.

The Men – will not have a three day weekend this year due to the inability to form a large enough team. Instead a Spiritual/Bonding 2 day weekend has been proposed. All the men on the mailing list will have received an email to determine their interest and availability.

APPLICATION FORMS - are now available and are attached with this Escarpment. The Secretariat would like all Cusillistas to print off 2 or 3 copies and keep them on hand to pass out. You may want to check if your parish is allowing pamphlets to be left in the church.

RECRUITMENT - It is important at this time to continue to talk to people about Cursillo. Please keep in touch with anyone who was thinking about coming to our 3 day weekend last year and be sure they know the new dates for our next weekend. At this stage no application forms have been received.

PALANCA – Denise Sciberras and Pauline Ranger will be organising Palanca at Hartzar Park during the weekend. When they email please respond if you are able to help.

REUNION GROUP



The Tahmoor ladies group met on the 1st February for their first group reunion of the year.

From left to right we have – Gay, Pat, Lesley, Geraldine, Trudy, Trish and Sofie. Missing from the photo is – Debbie, Lourdes and Olga.

ULTREYA'S

Wollongong Ultreya's are held on the **3rd Saturday of each month from 2pm.**

The next three Ultreya's for will be held on the

17th April on Zoom. Organising group is Tahmoor ladies

15th May on Zoom at this stage. Organising group T.B.A. in president's newsletter.

19th June Venue and organising group T.B.A. in president's newsletter

Ultreya organiser is Kristine Flood – kristineflood@outlook.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2021

As there isn't a fund raiser at present our subscriptions are the only source of income for us right now so if you can please send yours to Pauline by check or on line bank transfer, that would be great.

The Secretariat thanks everyone who has paid for 2021.

The yearly subscription is \$20 per family.

The payment details are below

Payment details for subscriptions:

Diocese of Wollongong Cursillo Movement,

BSB 641 800,

A/c No. 200459499

Send cheques to: *Pauline Ranger 17 Brierley Place Eagle Vale N.S.W. 2558*

The next Escarpment will be out in July/August 2021.

If you have something you wish me to put in the next Escarpment please send it to me by mid July.

Please continue to keep each other in your prayers.

Thank you to all the Cursillistas who contributed to this Escarpment.

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De Colores

Denise and helpers