



**DE COLORES  
MAGAZINE**

**BRISBANE ARCHDIOCESE**

**CURSILLO MOVEMENT**

**ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2023**

**EDITION**



**Come to me all you who labour and are  
overburdened and I will give you rest.  
(Mt 11:28)**

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## *A message from Our Diocesan President*

Advent and Christmas are nearly upon us and it seems that Winter & Spring have truly passed. Have you ever noticed how our lives mimic the seasons? Perhaps you are feeling warmer and brighter than you have in recent months. Short days and the subtle lack of colour in our gardens can leave us lethargic and lacking in motivation.

Well, now is the Summer of our lives; the time to take our lethargy and motivation in hand and bloom in each of our environments. Feel and absorb both the warmth of the sun and the warmth of the people you love.

Look to the future and reassess your Cursillo commitments. Once a Cursillista, always a Cursillista. Don't you desire to see others experience the growth and friendships you have through Cursillo, along with any strengthening of your relationship with God?

We are planning both a men's and a women's Cursillo 3-days in May 2024 (dates can be found further on in this Newsletter). Both will be held at Hendra. Now is the time to search your respective environments and seek out potential candidates for these weekends and the productive Christian life that follows.

Don't forget the "far-aways" – those who may not be regular Mass goers. Many are searching, even if they are unsure what it is they are searching for. Get to know them then invite them to an Ultreya, or even your group reunion. Give them a feel for what our Movement is about even before they do a weekend.

It is not necessarily our responsibility to convert others, but it certainly is our job to be seed-sowers. We plant the seeds and then nurture them. Your ongoing contact can be life changing. To enable us to do this, we need to find those who are needy for Christ, reach out in friendship and then walk the journey with them.

Remember to nurture your own journey; evaluate your group reunions, attend regular Ultreyas and live your fourth day with Christian friends supporting you. We can't pour from an empty vessel. May your vessel be filled with Christ's love and blessings.

**De Colores,**  
**Rosemary Haydock**



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Disagreements may well give rise to conflicts, but uniformity proves stifling and leads to cultural decay. May we not be content with being enclosed in one fragment of reality.

**FRATELLI TUTTI (Pope Francis)**

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### **REMEMBER:**

Start the new day, presenting yourself before the Lord with all that you feel, think, and hope to experience today. Offer up your day. Jesus tells us, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be fishers of men" (Lk 5:11). Fear often times only paralyzes. Examine your heart and speak with the Lord about those fears that are not letting you move forward. Ask for the grace to be a bit freer to be able to go out to sea and be a fisher of souls for the Kingdom.

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## *A message from Our National Cursillo President*



Greetings Cursillistas

At the meeting of the National Executive last month in Sydney, a new Executive was elected for the next 2 years. I was elected as President with Marg Morris elected as the Vice President. Merran Martin from Canberra was later elected as the Secretary. Joe Jambour is continuing as Treasurer and Helen Andrews has joined us as National Palanca Secretary. Fr John Armstrong is continuing as our National Spiritual Director.

The meeting was very encouraging with good things happening in the other Dioceses. Perhaps we are coming out of a downturn that wasn't helped by the onset of COVID.

**Brisbane** reported on their 2 Cursillo 3 days held during the year. They were both live out weekends with the Cursillo starting on the Saturday morning. The meditations were sent out earlier with the candidates being asked to look at them prior to coming.

From there onwards, the programme remained the same. Costs were greatly reduced as a result of using Parish facilities and allowing candidates to go home.

**Cairns** reported that costs were rising and they were interested in the concept of the live out weekends. Future team members will be urged to join the School of Leaders.

**Canberra/Goulburn** spoke about the challenges of continued participation of candidates and the shortage of Priests.

**Lismore** advised that School of Leaders had started and their priority was reviving Group Reunions.

**Maitland/Newcastle** advised that their priority was the appointing of a Spiritual Director and coordinators for 2024 Cursillos. As in all Dioceses, they need to concentrate on younger Cursillistas.

**Perth** are having difficulty with finding people with the time to give to being on Secretariat.

**Wollongong** held a successful Women's Cursillo. They received good assistance from the Diocesan Evangelisation Group in the preparation for their 3 days. They will be looking to get more Men to come along to Cursillo.

**Vietnam in Diaspora** held 2 Cursillos recently with some 98 attending over the 2 weekends. They now have official ties with Cursillo in Vietnam.

**The OMCC** (the worldwide Movement) is preparing for a Pilgrimage to Compostela and is seeking to gather younger people (18 to 35) from around the world to join this pilgrimage in August. 24.

I believe the Holy Spirit was very present in this meeting and is calling us to Action.

### **Sunday Reflection and New Executive meeting**

On the following morning prior to the meeting of the new Executive Fr John, Anne Moloney and Margaret Morris presented talks on "The Passion for Evangelisation".

The highlights of this presentation were the need for us to have passion for Christ first and then passion for evangelization would follow.

And we need to have "**Enthusiasm**". That certain something that makes us great – puts us out of the mediocre and commonplace – that builds into us Power.

### **Where to from here.**

At a National level, we will be striving to renew the Movement in all of our Dioceses throughout Australia. To bring the enthusiasm and passion that was spoken about on that Sunday and bring to life in all our Dioceses.

### **How can we do this in today's world?**

Our National Executive will be giving this priority and will be working with the Diocesan Secretariats to make this happen. It will not be easy, so please, keep us in your prayers.

**Peter McMahon**

**President, National Cursillo Movement**



**Men's Cursillo** - Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> to Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 at Hendra

**Ladies' Cursillo** - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 at Hendra

In 2024 we are holding two Cursillo Weekends, one for men and one for ladies. These Cursillo experiences will be over three days and they will be in May 2024. The **Men's Cursillo** will be held on the May Long Weekend, Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> to Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2024 and the **Ladies Cursillo** will be on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2024. These weekends will be live out Cursillos with the candidates returning home each night. The weekends next year will be held at **Hendra Parish** in Brisbane. The weekends are open to candidates from all over the Brisbane area and beyond and accommodation could be made available if necessary for those coming further distances.

## *A Brief Note from our National Treasurer*

*Hello Cursillistas,*

I have been participating in online seminars held by Catholic Church Insurance (CCI) in relation to the “wind down” of its operations. CCI is at pains to stress that it is still financially solvent and is currently meeting claims against insurance policies held by existing policy holders. However, that said, it is evident that the resources of CCI has decreased significantly when CCI’s risk margins are considered.

CCI no longer meets Australian prudential (insurance) requirements. To effect an orderly cessation of its operations CCI is currently working with relevant authorities on a Scheme of Arrangement. The Scheme of Arrangement will identify a trigger point. When the trigger point is reached outstanding and future claims will be met on a proportional basis meaning claims will be paid out on a portion of the total.

I am monitoring development with CCI operations as well as working on a draft Request of Quote document which will be sent to reputable insurers, who provide coverage for not-for-profit organisations such as the Cursillo Movement. The Request for Quote will be sent out towards the end of this year to ensure that we have a continuation of insurance coverage beyond April 2024 when our current policy with CCI will cease. In the meantime it is important that all diocese and groups manage all Cursillo related activities carefully to avoid unnecessary exposure to risk and any potential future claims against Cursillo.

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### *Disturbance Prayer*

Lord, make me a channel of disturbance.

Where there is apathy, let me provoke.

Where there is compliance, let me discern to bring questioning.

Where there is silence, let me be a voice.

Where there is too much comfort and too little action, grant disruption.

Where there are doors closed and hearts locked, grant the willingness to listen.

When Laws dictate and pain is overlooked... when tradition speaks louder than need...

when we refuse to take control of our own Spiritual growth... our own mission... our own poor...

disturb me, O Lord. Teach me to be radical.

O Divine Master grant that I may seek rather to be active and search for justice than to talk about it,

to be with, as well as for, the poor,

to love the hard to love as well as the lovable,

to touch the passion of Jesus in the pain of those we meet,

to accept responsibility to be church.

For it is in giving that we receive,

It is in walking-with that we truly understand.

It is in confronting evil that we achieve justice.

Lord, make me a channel of disturbance.

*John 14:27(a)*

*Luke 12:49-51*

*Philippians 4:8-9*

## ***Thomas More - Martyr, Third Order Franciscan (1478–1535)***

**Thomas More** was one of the most highly respected men of his time. A successful barrister, an honest judge, a famous scholar, he rose to the highest status of any commoner in England, appointed by Henry VIII to the office of lord chancellor.

More had little ambition for worldly success. As he later wrote, “Reputation, honor, fame, what is all that but a breath of air from another person’s mouth no sooner spoken but gone? Thus whoever finds his delight in them is feeding on wind.” More was a man of deep and demanding faith. In his youth he had considered a monastic vocation before discerning instead that he was called to serve God in the world. While outwardly he enjoyed a life of comfort, in the privacy of his spiritual life he wore a hair shirt, attended daily Mass, and practiced a strict discipline of prayer. He is believed to have become a Third Order Franciscan (and indeed his name is listed in the calendar of Franciscan saints).

More considered himself a loyal friend and servant of the king. But circumstances were to evolve to the point that Henry required a more absolute loyalty than More could offer. For some years Henry had been moving toward a fateful collision with the authority of the Catholic Church. The issue was his desire to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon to marry Anne Boleyn. When the pope blocked his way, Henry divorced Catherine, married Anne, and required that all subjects repudiate “any foreign authority, prince or potentate.”

Rather than oppose the king, More resigned his position, but when he refused to take the oath he was arrested and imprisoned in the Tower of London.

The miseries of prison life, including cold, hunger, and vermin, were compounded by pressure from his family. When his wife tried to coax him to alter his course, he responded, “My good woman, you are no good at doing business. Do you really want me to exchange eternity for twenty years?”

After fifteen months, More was put on trial and convicted on the basis of perjured testimony. Now, with his fate settled, he at last broke his silence. He denied that Parliament had the authority to set up a temporal lord as head of the Church. He prayed, “that though your lordships have now here on earth been judges of my condemnation, we may yet hereafter in heaven merrily all meet together to everlasting salvation.”

On the day of his execution on July 6, 1535, he displayed his characteristic wit, asking for the executioner’s help in ascending the scaffold: “As for my coming down, let me shift for myself.” Addressing the gathered crowd, he spoke: “I die in and for the faith of the holy Catholic Church. Pray for me in this world, and I shall pray for you in that world. Pray for the king that it please God to send him good counselors. I die as the king’s true servant, but God’s first.”

Thomas More was canonized in 1935. In 2000, he was declared “the heavenly patron of statesmen and politicians.”

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**Little as I meddle in the conscience of others, I am certain that my conscience belongs to me alone. It is the last thing that a man can do for his salvation: to be at one with himself.**

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***The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything;  
they just make the best of everything they have.  
Have a blessed day.***

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## ***A Reflection from The Diocesan Spiritual Advisor***

***Be doers, not merely hearers, of the word.***

All of us understand that God wants us to live a certain way; to choose and do what is good and right and avoid what is bad - what hurts ourselves and others and our relationships with others and with God. In the scriptures we had before us on a recent Sunday (22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time) we certainly see evidence of people, through the years, endeavouring to put into words what all this means.

In the first reading (Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8) a very important idea is raised - the concept of the commandments of God themselves being impressive and pointers towards the wisdom and character of a people who commit to live by them.

In the psalm (Psalm 14(15):2-5) we read of a vision of the kind of people that answers the question, "Lord, who shall dwell on your holy mountain?" Here we have a whole list of traits that describe such people.

In the second reading (James 1:17-18,21-22,27) we have this, "Welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father; is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world."

We are called to welcome God's word wholeheartedly - the word which has the power to save our souls. And we are exhorted to be doers not merely hearers of the word. Our actions should be proof of this.

And all of that brings us to a crucial point in the Gospel reading. (Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23) Jesus says, addressing the scribes and Pharisees, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honours me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.'" This is the danger of being only hearers and not doers - when what we say is far from what is in our hearts.

The commands of the Lord are impressive, but even more impressive when accompanied by a people who have truly accepted them into their hearts. From these very same hearts these people put forth words and actions into the world that are good and right.

God realises we fail all the time - that's why we have the sacrament of God's Mercy. However, God also realises that a simple yet grand vision of what we are called to be can help us when we fall, so we can be strengthened to once again go out into the world and be doers, not just hearers, of God's saving Word.

***Fr Peter***



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*Look for a space where you can take time to receive the mystery of Mary into your heart. Joseph can help you because he is a receptive father since he welcomed Mary without conditions... Joseph's welcome invites us to welcome others around us without exclusions, just as they are, and with preference for the vulnerable (Pope Francis). Who needs your help today? Who is on the peripheries of your mind? Ask for Mary and Joseph's intercession to love Jesus through those around you.*

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## *Reflection from National Spiritual Advisor*

### Australian Catholic Cursillo Movement

#### How do we listen for God?

One of the questions which seem to occur in the spiritual direction of others is how do I know that this is what God wants? There can be a desire to buy a how-to-book that will lay out an easy-to-follow plan which clearly states what needs to be done. This finds echoes in the reading from Hebrews which we read this weekend which seeks some concrete expression of this desire whether it is through the sacrifices we make for others, the gifts we offer, or the time we spend in preparing for Christmas. Yet it is how we are present to God and others that are more important. It is a life that we live which gives the best expression to what we believe.

We see this in Mary rushing to be at Elizabeth's side during her pregnancy. There is a deep concern which Mary seeks to live through the visitation. There is a sharing of what brings her life which elicits a response from Elizabeth which recognizes the blessing which draws attention to what is at the heart of all life. This obedience is about allowing God's voice to make a connection between everyday life and the mystery which is at the heart of life. A blessing is a lived expression of who God desires us to become not just something that we receive.

This is the essence of the incarnation which seeks that we are met body and soul by the person of Jesus. This person changes the way we listen both to God and each other. It helps us to notice the deep connection between the spiritual underpinning of God's creative spirit and the human expression of that loving presence. We are called to be internationally present to others in seeing the life of Christ motivating our every action, by being people who listen to the movement of God's spirit which quickens within us for the good of the whole world. This calls for an offering our whole life in being transformed by the person of Jesus. May his peace disturb us!

¡DE COLORES!

Fr. John Armstrong

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### **A PRAYER FOR PEACE**

**God of Compassion, Hear the cries of the people from countries at war, especially Russia and Ukraine, Israel and Palestine. Comfort those who suffer violence, console those who mourn the dead, give strength to neighbouring countries to welcome refugees. Convert the hearts of those who have taken up arms and protect those who are committed to peace. God of hope, inspire our leaders to choose peace over violence and to seek reconciliation with their enemies. In flame the Universal Church with compassion for the people from countries at war and give hope for a future built on justice for all. We ask this through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace and Light of the World.... Amen**

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# BRISBANE



# ULTREYA



EACHI **3<sup>RD</sup>**  **saturday**

**Starting at 2 pm**



**Stafford Catholic Parish**  
**Our Lady, Queen of Apostles**

*70 Appleby Road,  
Stafford*

Brisbane Cursillo Ultreyas are held each month on the third Saturday of each month. We have different groups presenting the Ultreyas so that we can all have an opportunity to provide our perspective on our Spiritual growth and journeys. The Ultreya includes a personal witness that can so often be inspirational to those who hear their experience of God.

Our Ultreyas are held on the **third Saturday** afternoon of each month at the Parish Meeting Room at Mary, Queen of Apostles Parish Meeting Room, 70 Appleby Road, Stafford. They start at 2:00 pm. They are open to all Cursillistas and your friends would be most welcome.

**Calendar dates to pencil in –**

**Ultreya – January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

**Ultreya – February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

**Ultreya – March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

**Ultreya – April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

**Men's Cursillo – 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2024.**

**Ladies Cursillo – 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2024.**

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## **NEW BEGINNINGS FOR CURSILLO BRISBANE**

Following the call of Pope Francis when he spoke to the lay ecclesial movements saying “the Charism to which you belong must be furthered more and more. You must reflect together on the new situations in which you live, recognising and accepting change to outdated ways of your method of apostolate” (cf. Pope Francis Bulletin 19.6.21). The Brisbane Cursillo Movement reflected on our changing world and on its method of holding 3-day weekends.

Cursillo came to Brisbane in the late 1960's and continues to offer people the opportunity to discover themselves, deepen their relationship with Christ, live to their full potential, and together with others, support and help Christians live the Gospel in everyday life, in so doing bringing Christ's message to the world.

Through a series of talks and discussions, as well as sharing and praying, singing and laughter, a team of laity and a Priest present the 3-day experience, lived in an atmosphere of friendship and joy.

Pope Francis has spoken of the modern world's need for ‘Spirit filled evangelists, empowered by the Holy Spirit – joy filled missionaries on fire with the love of Christ who boldly and courageously share the love of God in their own homes, families, workplaces, neighborhoods and social circles where so many are distant from or are indifferent to God’. (The Joy of the Gospel)

This year we held our 3-days at Mary, Queen of Peace Parish Hall, Woody Point, with participants returning home each night. The Men's was held from Saturday 29 April – Monday 1st May; The Women's from Friday 19th - Sunday 21st May.

Cursillo proudly offers a safe place to “Be a friend, make a friend and bring your friend to Christ”. A place where the Joy of the Gospel can come alive and be sent to the world – a charism alive and apostolic.

Cursillo is supported by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, Archbishop Mark Coleridge and Bishop Tim Norton here in Brisbane.

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## “Did you Know” – Some Facts About Catholicism

Catholicism has been a moving force in the development of Western culture. It continues to be influential in religious issues, social institutions, art, education, medicine, science, music, philosophy, literature, and politics.

The Catholic Church’s Vatican has diplomatic relations with almost every country in the world.

Pope John Paul II travelled to more than 129 different countries, logging more than 750,000 frequent flyer miles, which is about three times the distance to the moon.

The word “Catholic” was first used by Ignatius of Antioch around the year A.D. 110. It is from the Greek word *katholikos*, which means “toward the whole.” Ignatius was suggesting that the Church is a gift offered by Christ to all people.

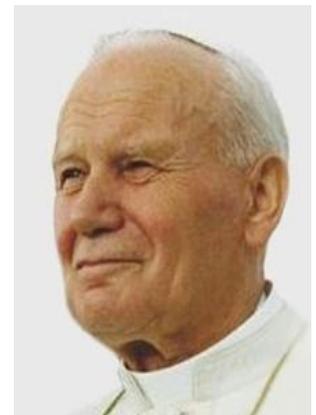
The Catholic Church is the largest single denomination in Christianity.

The “Devil’s Advocate” or *Advocate Diaboli*, is a real position within the Catholic Church.

..Pope John Paul II was the first non-Italian pope in over 400 years.

Between John Paul II’s election to the papacy in 1978 and his death in 2004, more than 17 million people attended his weekly audiences in Rome.

The Catholic Church executed William Tyndale in 1536 for translating the Bible into English. He was not just executed: he was tried for heresy, choked, impaled, and burned at the stake. Roughly 83% of the New Testament in the King James Bible is Tyndale’s translation. Additionally, roughly 76% of the Old Testament is his translation.



The crime rate in Vatican City is 133.6%, which means there are more annual offenses than there are people in the Vatican (about 500 people). Most of the crimes, though, are committed by visiting tourists.

The oldest institution in the Western world is the Catholic Church. It traces its history back almost 2,000 years.

There are more than 1 billion Catholics in the world, in all five continents. They are particularly concentrated in southern Europe, the U.S., the Philippines, and the countries of Central and South America. What binds them together is a belief in Jesus Christ and obedience to the papacy.

Catholics believe that the pope, who is based in Rome, is the successor to Saint Peter, who Christ appointed as the first head of His church.

For almost 1,000 years, Catholicism was Christianity. But over time, schisms have disrupted the unity, including a schism in A.D. 144 with Marcionism, a schism in 318 A.D. with Arianism, a divide in 1054 A.D. with the East-West Schism, and yet another divide in 1517 during the Protestant Reformation.†

The pope does not live in Italy; he lives in Vatican City, which is a county within Italy.

The Catholic Church is the body of churches that are in full communion with the Bishop of Rome, which includes the Roman Catholic Church and 22 Eastern Catholic Churches.

The first printed Bible was printed under the supervision of the Catholic Church. It was printed by the Catholic inventor of the printing press: Johannes Gutenberg.

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## Pope Francis expresses closeness to refugees and the homeless



Pope Francis brought joy and smiles to the faces of about 100 refugees and homeless people gathered at the atrium of the Paul VI Hall in the Vatican for a screening of the film-documentary entitled “Francesco.”

**By Vatican News staff writer**

Pope Francis met briefly with approximately 100 homeless and migrant people invited to a screening of the film-documentary “Francesco” on Monday evening in the atrium of the Paul VI Hall in the Vatican, according to a statement to journalists by Matteo Bruni, the Director of the Holy See Press Office.

The screening was organized by the Laudato Si’ Foundation and the director of the film-documentary, Evgeny Afineevsky, who addressed a personal greeting to the audience, during which he recalled the migration of his own family, originally from Russia, to Israel and then to the United States.

### **Papal comfort for refugees**

According to the statement, at the end of the projection of the film documentary, the Holy Father arrived at the atrium of the Paul VI Hall where he spoke to those gathered for the viewing.

Among those present were 20 people who had arrived from Afghanistan in recent weeks to whom the Pope “addressed words of affection and comfort,” the statement noted.

Of these Afghan refugees were four siblings between the ages of 14 – 20 who arrived in Italy thanks to the support of the Community of Sant’ Egidio. They have been placed in the care of an uncle who has been an immigrant for some years running. The siblings have had to leave their parents behind in refugee camps in Iran.

Bismillah, the oldest of the four, spoke to Vatican News about the importance of feeling welcomed, listened to, and understood by Pope Francis, and how the Holy Father’s presence gave them new hope to face the future.

After meeting with those gathered for the screening, Pope Francis returned home to the Casa Santa Marta.

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### **REFLECTION: IDEAL**

The way we habitually imagine ourselves, our fellow men and what we call God is one of the most formative factors in life. Let anyone picture in his or her imagination the kind of person they long to be, and view that picture frequently and steadily enough, and they will be drawn towards it. Within the imagination resides much of the power to control our health, achieve our goals and develop our characters.

Christ new the power of a fired imagination to motivate people. He enrolled as learners a group of individuals whose horizons were bounded by a country lake. He led them to visualise themselves as the salt of the earth and the light of the world. He filled their imaginations with pictures of themselves carrying his message to “the uttermost parts of the earth”.

*The Age, Saturday Reflection: 10 August 1985*

*From A Canopy of Stars: Some Reflections for the Journey by Fr Christopher Gleeson SJ*

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# YOUTH OF AUSTRALIA

18 - 35 YEARS

This is your opportunity to walk the Camino as a Pilgrim from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela, Spain from 5<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> August 2024, together with youth from around the world and members of the Cursillos in Christianity Movement.

What will the Pilgrimage entail? The distance from Sarria to Santiago de Compostela (SdC) is 115.2 km. Most walking will be on paths and tracks or quiet roads. Sarria is a traditional starting point for many pilgrims because to receive the 'Compostela' (the official certificate of completion) one needs to walk at least 100 kms.



Pilgrims generally walk between 20-30km per day, staying in affordable sports accommodation and are entitled to buy Pilgrim meals. Breakfast is provided with the accommodation each day.

There will be opportunities for fellowship, morning prayers, and evening eucharist each day. In SdC there is a Pilgrim Mass, each day in the local Cathedral, when the countries of the people who reached SDC the day before are announced.

Do you know of any youth who may be interested in making the Pilgrimage? Expressions of interest should go to Anne Moloney [annemoloney@gmail.com](mailto:annemoloney@gmail.com) (International Representative) by 30 November 2023

*When I lost the fingers on my right hand in a freak accident, I asked the doctor if I would still be able to write with it. He said, "Probably, but I wouldn't count on it."*

*I woke up this morning determined to drink less, eat right, and exercise. But that was four hours ago when I was younger and full of hope.*

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# One crisp winter morning in Sweden

One crisp winter morning in Sweden, a cute little girl named Greta woke up to a perfect world, one where there were no petroleum products ruining the earth. She tossed aside her cotton sheet and wool blanket and stepped out onto a dirt floor covered with willow bark that had been pulverized with rocks. "What's this?" she asked.

"Pulverized willow bark," replied her fairy godmother.

"What happened to the carpet?" she asked.

"The carpet was nylon, which is made from butadiene and hydrogen cyanide, both made from petroleum," came the response.

Greta smiled, acknowledging that adjustments are necessary to save the planet, and moved to the sink to brush her teeth where instead of a toothbrush, she found a willow, mangled on one end to expose wood fibre bristles.

"Your old toothbrush?" noted her godmother, "Also nylon."

"Where's the water?" asked Greta.

"Down the road in the canal," replied her godmother, "Just make sure you avoid water with cholera in it"

"Why's there no running water?" Greta asked, becoming a little peevish.

"Well," said her godmother, who happened to teach engineering at MIT, "Where do we begin?" There followed a long monologue about how sink valves need elastomer seats and how copper pipes contain copper, which has to be mined and how it's impossible to make all-electric earth-moving equipment with no gear lubrication or tires and how ore has to be smelted to a make metal, and that's tough to do with only electricity as a source of heat, and even if you use only electricity, the wires need insulation, which is petroleum-based, and though most of Sweden's energy is produced in an environmentally friendly way because of hydro and nuclear, if you do a mass and energy balance around the whole system, you still need lots of petroleum products like lubricants and nylon and rubber for tires and asphalt for filling potholes and wax and iPhone plastic and elastic to hold your underwear up while operating a copper smelting furnace and . . .

"What's for breakfast?" interjected Greta, whose head was hurting.

"Fresh, range-fed chicken eggs," replied her godmother. "Raw."

"How so, raw?" inquired Greta.

"Well, . . ." And once again, Greta was told about the need for petroleum products like transformer oil and scores of petroleum products essential for producing metals for frying pans and in the end was educated about how you can't have a petroleum-free world and then cook eggs. Unless you rip your front fence up and start a fire and carefully cook your egg in an orange peel like you do in Boy Scouts. Not that you can find oranges in Sweden anymore.

"But I want poached eggs like my Aunt Tilda makes," lamented Greta.

"Tilda died this morning," the godmother explained. "Bacterial pneumonia."

"What?!" interjected Greta. "No one dies of bacterial pneumonia! We have penicillin."

"Not anymore," explained godmother "The production of penicillin requires chemical extraction using isobutyl acetate, which, if you know your organic chemistry, is petroleum-based. Lots of people are dying, which is problematic because there's not any easy way of disposing of the bodies since backhoes need hydraulic oil and crematoriums can't really burn many bodies using as fuel Swedish fences and furniture, which are rapidly disappearing - being used on the black market for roasting eggs and staying warm."

This represents only a fraction of Greta's day, a day without microphones to exclaim into and a day without much food, and a day without carbon-fibre boats to sail in, but a day that will save the planet.

Tune in tomorrow when Greta needs a root canal and learns how Novocain is synthesized.

I don't care who your dad is, this is an illegal gathering



**OLD AGE COMES AT A  
BAD TIME!  
WHEN YOU FINALLY  
KNOW EVERYTHING,  
YOU START TO FORGET  
EVERYTHING YOU KNOW.**

If you ever feel  
useless, just  
remember USA  
took 4 Presidents,  
thousands of lives,  
trillions of dollar  
and 20 years to  
replace Taliban  
with Taliban.

THE GOVERNMENT IN  
EGYPT HAS INSTRUCTED  
THE CITIES TAXI DRIVERS  
TO DRIVE AROUND CAIRO  
SOUNDING THEIR CAR  
HORNS. IT'S HOPED  
THAT A RETURN TO  
FAMILIAR CITY SOUNDS  
WILL HELP RESTORE  
CALM FOLLOWING THE  
PANDEMIC. OPERATION  
TOOT N CALM EM WILL  
LAST FOR A WEEK.



How did doctors come to the conclusion that exercise prolongs life, when....the rabbit is always jumping but only lives for around two years, and...the turtle that doesn't exercise at all, lives over 200 years. So, rest, chill, eat, drink, and enjoy life!

**I too was once a male trapped in a female body...but then my mother gave birth.**

**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**



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## LECTIO DIVINA, SACRED READING

Long ago, and for many centuries, the prayer form of LECTIO DIVINA (Latin words for ‘Sacred Reading’) was a favoured prayer form in the Church, particularly used by the monks in the monasteries of the early centuries. Sadly, this style fell into disuse.

For example, a perusal of a reputable Catholic Dictionary printed in the 1980s has a lengthy article on Prayer, explaining the different types of prayer without mentioning ‘Lectio Divina.’ However, in recent decades with the help of books of such authors as Thomas Merton, Henri Nouwen, Richard Rohr and several others, Lectio Divina is finding its way back again.

With permission we re-print the opening paragraphs of an excellent article received (15 August 2021) on-line from ‘New Eden Ministry’ written by Justin Coutts. The complete article may be downloaded by emailing [justin@newedenministry.com](mailto:justin@newedenministry.com)

**Lectio Divina is the monastic practice of sacred reading. It is a prayer method which uses specific steps to allow us to penetrate more deeply into the spiritual meanings of scripture, and be transformed by them.**

**Undoubtedly, the master of Lectio Divina, who first codified it and created the four stages we are familiar with today, is Guiglo II. Guiglo was a French monk in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. He wrote a book called *The Ladder of the Monks* which was widely read and is perhaps the first example of methodical prayer in the West.**

**In this book he describes the spiritual work of a monk as a ladder with four rungs which has its foundation on the earth and its summit in heaven. The imagery comes from the scene in Genesis where Jacob had a vision of a ladder stretching from Earth to Heaven. Angels were ascending and descending going about their angelic business. This ladder, for Guiglo, was a symbol of the path of prayer by which we may join the angels and climb towards heaven. It is from this book that the four stages of lectio divina come. Those stages are : reading, meditation, prayer and contemplation. Guiglo described them like this: “Reading seeks of a blessed life, meditation perceives it, prayers asks for it, and contemplation tastes it.”**

The full article may be read by googling [Lectio Divina: Sacred Reading as a Path to Contemplation](#).

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A new supermarket opened near my house. It has an automatic water mister to keep the produce fresh. Just before it goes on, you hear the sound of distant thunder and the smell of fresh rain. When you approach the milk cases, you hear cows mooing and experience the scent of fresh hay. When you approach the egg case, you hear hens cluck and cackle, and the air is filled with the pleasing aroma of bacon and eggs frying. The veggie department features the smell of fresh buttered corn. I don't buy toilet paper there any more.

**SHARE if it made you LAUGH**

**Last Night, My Neighbor Came Home Drunk & Banged On His Own Door For Like 5 Mins. 🤦🏻 Problem Is, He Lives Alone, So I Went Outside And Told Him He Wasn't There & He Left!!! 😂😂😂**

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## PRAYER OF THE GREAT PERSIAN MYSTIC

I searched for God among the Christians and on the Cross,  
and therein found Him not.

I went into the ancient temples of idolatry;  
no trace of Him was there.

I entered the mountain cave of Hira and then went as far as Qandhar,  
but God I found not.

With set purpose I fared to the summit of Mount Caucasus,  
and found there only 'anqa's habitation.

Then I directed my search to the Kaaba, the resort of old and young;  
God was not there even.

Turning to philosophy I enquired about Him from Ibn Sina,  
but found Him not within his range.

I fared then to the scene of the Prophet's experience of a great divine manifestation only  
a two bow-lengths' distance from him,  
but God was not there even in that exalted court.

Finally, I looked into my own heart and there I saw Him:  
He was nowhere else.

Rumi, 13<sup>th</sup> Century Persian Mystic

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### One of Our Ultreya Songs

A beautiful song played at our September Ultreya "**As I Kneel Before You**"

The link to this beautiful song that did not come through on the Ultreya night is below ...

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4cu2M\\_skVc&ab\\_channel=AndrewChua](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4cu2M_skVc&ab_channel=AndrewChua)

We just thought you might like to see and listen to it. Just click on the link above.

Blessings **Michael.**