



The Escarpment
Newsletter of the Wollongong Cursillo Movement

Dear friends,

All Saints' Day, also known as the Feast of All Saints, the Feast of All Hallows, the Solemnity of All Saints, or, Halloween, is held on November 1st in the Catholic and Anglican churches and also by many mainline Protestants, such as the Lutheran and Methodist communities. It used to be part of the Octave of Allhallowtide, first established by Sixtus IV in 1430, but the Octave was discontinued in the 1955 reforms¹. The churches in communion with Rome – the Syro-Malabar and Chaldean Catholics celebrate All Saints' Day on the First Friday after Easter.

In the Catholic Church, All Saints and All Souls Day have a strong connection stemming from the belief that there is a strong spiritual connection between the Church Militant (the faithful in this world) and the Church Triumphant (those who have attained the Beatific vision of heaven). Both are enjoined to pray for the Church Suffering (those souls in purgatory).

The Collect for the Feast of All Saints (in the 'new' missal) speaks about the prayers of the saints sustaining the church on earth – as does the 1962 Collect. One of my interests in the liturgy of the past ten or so years has been comparing linguistic differences and deviations between the different parts of the Mass (the Collects included, as I often pray from the Collects from both the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite (the Mass of Pius V) and the Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite (the Mass of Paul VI).

Sadly, the Mass of the Feast of All Saints in the 1962 order of Mass only uses the Common Preface, but the Preface of the Mass of All Saints promulgated by Paul VI takes full advantage of the feast to pray about celebrating the “festival of Your city, the heavenly Jerusalem...” where we “...eagerly hasten as pilgrims advancing by faith...”. Both Collects make explicit mention of God who “...has enabled us in one solemn feast the merits of all Thy saints...” (1962, *Missale Romanum*) and “...by whose gift we venerate in one celebration the merits of all the Saints...” (2010, New English Translation).

¹ Eisenhofer, Ludwig; Lechner, Josef (1961). [The Liturgy of the Roman rite](#). Verlag Herder. p. 239.

What does this mean for Cursillo? As part of the church in this world and in view of the many Cursillistas who have passed away, we are recipients of the prayers of the Cursillistas in heaven, and we also have a special part to play in liberating souls from purgatory. Each November, Wollongong Cursillo has a list of dearly departed Cursillistas set up during Ultreya to call to mind those in our reunion groups who have passed away so that we can pray for them in a special way.

As far as the notion of ‘pilgrimage’ goes, this goes to the very heart of the Cursillos in Christianity movement, which is “much more related to practical theology” (Eduardo Bonnín, *Study of the Charism*. 14), the movement itself originated in Spain on the Camino. One of the core sentiments of the Cursillo movement has it that we are constantly on pilgrimage (I think this is in a way, analogous to the Hebrews in the Torah, being prepared by God for their journey to the Promised Land).

In this way, All Saints Day also has a connection with the accompanying All Souls Day (celebrated on the final day of Allhallowtide) and the season of Allhallowtide, established for Rome by Pope Gregory III (731 – 741). Historically, the first recorded use of the word “Allhallowtide” was in 1471, and is derived from three words: the Old English word *hallow* (meaning holy), the word *tide* (meaning time or season), and the word *all* (which is rendered in Old English as *eall*).

The holiday of Halloween occurs on the first day of Allhallowtide, and ‘Halloween’ is a contraction of ‘All Hallows Eve’. According to some scholars, this was the result of the absorption of some Celtic practices to ease their conversion to Christianity². On All Hallows’ Eve, some maintained that the veil between the material world and the afterlife thinned, and, in order to prevent recognition by a soul, people would wear masks or costumes to disguise their identity. It was an English tradition for people to dress up as saints and martyrs.

² ["BBC – Religions – Christianity: All Hallows' Eve"](#). BBC. 2010.



Boy dressed as St. George

So, this Allhallowtide, remember the saints and martyrs, both known and unknown, read about their lives, and try to apply some of their faith to your life and your Cursillo pilgrimage here in this world. Tell a friend.

References:

<http://www.maryhaseltine.com/2016/10/saint-costumes-101-and-whole-bunch-of.html>

<https://catholicmedicine.org/news/kids-take-back-halloween>

Schadé, Johannes P. (30 December 2006). *Encyclopedia of World Religions*. Foreign Media Group.

De colores.

Matthew Nicholson.

August Ulyreya:

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the August Ultreya to enjoy the conversations had in the small sharing groups, and to generally take in the convivial atmosphere created by the Camden Ladies reunion group who hosted the Ultreya in the parish hall.



The parish banner.



The Piety table was decorated with a candle, a rosary, a Pilgrim's Guide, and some flowers.

**Pot Luck Lunch – Xavier Room, St Francis Xavier Cathedral,
Wollongong.**

Margaret F.

On Saturday, September 21st, we gathered for a delightful Pot Luck lunch in the Xavier Room beside the Cathedral. After lunch, Fr Chris celebrated Holy Mass, during which he commissioned the new Women’s Team for our weekend next March. Our team consists of Dianne Garland, Denise D’Amore, Elizabeth Gill, Geraldine Dayball, Gilda Chauvet, Kerrie Hennessy, Kristine Flood, Pru Hall, Shirley Parker, Vanessa Smith and myself, Margaret French.

I would like to thank all these ladies for accepting their roles, as well as the ladies who were invited and were very enthusiastic but, for many reasons, were unable to commit this time. However, they all expressed their keenness to work in the background in various ways.

And a very sincere thank you to Fr. Chris for his commissioning blessings and for all he does for Wollongong Cursillo. Please keep him and the team in your prayers as we journey towards the Weekend, and please pray for many candidates to come and join us in March.

De Colores!



Vanessa and Nancy – Winners of the Coin Toss

POT LUCK LUNCH – A report by Denise D.

On the 20th of September, Cursillo held a Pot Luck lunch as a Fundraiser /Social event at Xavier Centre, Wollongong Cathedral.

The 18 of us that attended had a fun-filled day. We were treated to a feast of fine food provided by the participants.

Fun was had watching our friends fighting for a bottle of wine and Bailey's by tossing dollar coins at the bottles. Vanessa and Nancy came out victorious.

Dianne gave us some Trivia to think about, which was much too hard for most of us, but the clever girls from Tahmoor knew their stuff and went home with the chocolates.

There was a raffle with 5 prizes, winners are grinners. It was great to hear the laughter coming from the tables, and the \$200+ raised will help with the cost next weekend for those who need it.

Looking forward to our next adventure together.

From "The Way and the Eagle" (November edition):

Below is a link to Fr. John's reflections for your enjoyment and Spiritual nourishment.

<https://walkingonthewayofjesuswithjohn.blogspot.com/?m=1>

MINI RETREAT



The four presenters: Michelle, Lesley, Margaret, Kristine

As there isn't a three-day weekend this year, we held a Mini Retreat at Camden on the 19th of October. Margaret gave us a Meditation on Prayer and looked at the ways our Prayers are answered in God's way and time.

Our first talk was given by Lesley W., who represented the Tahmoor group.

ENCOUNTER WITH SELF

This is the most important encounter. When we examine ourselves and forgive ourselves then we are able to speak freely about "Faith" and bring Joy to others.

Michelle from the Camden group talked about....

OUR ENCOUNTER WITH JESUS

As in cross-stitch, good light is essential. Are we pursuing Jesus to be the light of our life. Some situations in life don't make sense. In cross-stitch, the back stitches help the picture come together. We may have to wait for God to put in the back stitches to our life to help us see the big picture.

Kristine from the Wollongong group gave us some insight on...

THE ENCOUNTER WITH OTHERS

Practising our Faith draws people closer to God than preaching to them. Kristine challenged us to think about how we interact with people of other Faiths or no Faith especially in God matters. Positive discussions at the tables will help us move forward in our Tripod of “PRAYER, STUDY AND ACTION”



Report by Denise D.

Ultreya Reminder:

Ultreya venues are subject to change depending on the parish involved.

Ultreya Roster 2025

Date	Venue	Host Group
Feb 15	OLHC Rosemeadow	Camden Ladies
March 15	St. Clare's N'Vale	Campbelltown Ladies
April 12	TBA	Secretariate Instructional Ultreya
May 17	TBA	Wollongong Ladies
June 21	Heritage Hall Camden	25 th anniversary
July 19	St. Anthony's Tahmoor	Tahmoor Ladies
August 16	St. Clare's N Vale	Eaglevale Ladies
September 20	Zoom	Revesby Ladies
October 18		
November 15		Secretariat

Saturday, November 16th – Cursillistas lunch at the beach. (Meet at the park near Bulli Beach café at 11 am., [Corner of Gololphin St and Trinity Row Bulli]).



Please join us for a

Luncheon

After a discussion at SOL about the importance of maintaining a connection with each other, It was decided to meet for lunch on the last Friday of each month. The address of Campbelltown Catholic Club is 20/22 Camden Road, Campbelltown.

REUNION GROUPS

LOCATION	CONTACT	MEETING
<i>Eagle Vale Ladies - Day</i>	Contact Pauline Ranger 0416497541	2 nd Wednesday of the month at 2pm (via Zoom)
<i>Campbelltown Ladies – Night</i>	Contact Margaret French 0417041721	Last Friday of the month 5pm (via Zoom)
<i>Camden Ladies - Day</i>	Contact Dianne Garland: 0418 640 373	2 nd and 4 th Thursday of month 10am in Camden/Raby
<i>Tahmoor Ladies - Day</i>	Contact Lesley Wyatt: 0488 666 326	1 st Mon of the Month 1.30pm in Tahmoor / Buxton
<i>Wollongong Ladies - Day</i>	Contact Elizabeth Gill 0403238602	4 th Friday of the month 10am
<i>Panania Ladies Group – Day</i>	Contact Trish Benn 0403897849	1 st Tuesday of each Month 11.30am at Panania