



AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC CURSILLO MOVEMENT

www.cursillo.asn.au

President's Easter Newsletter

April 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this letter, I have just heard the news of the death of our beloved Pope Francis, truly a man of the people. He gave us such a good example of servant leadership, care of the environment, humility and love for all. May he rest in peace.

We have also just celebrated the death and rising of our Lord and Teacher and hopefully we have come away with a greater sense of our ongoing role as His disciples. The charism of our Cursillo Movement calls us to be leaven in our environments – always ready to make a friend, be a friend and journey with our friend to Christ into our 4th day.

National Encounter – 19-21 September 2025

Our National Encounter, Pilgrims of Hope, will be held at Carmel House, Varroville, NSW.

Planning is continuing for this exciting event and more information on the programme will be sent out to Delegates and Diocesan Presidents in the coming weeks. Let us encourage the involvement of cursillistas from all Dioceses to come together for this great event.

Wollongong is hosting the Encounter and will provide a Facilitator and Chas to ensure the three days run smoothly. They are working on Registration forms and will provide full information on accommodation, transport details and costs shortly.

Maitland/Newcastle are providing the Music and Liturgy and will coordinate with Wollongong regarding this.

Brisbane is looking at organising a convoy of cars to travel to the Encounter stopping overnight on the way. They are hoping to be joined en route by Cursillistas from **Lismore** and **Maitland/Newcastle**.

We will celebrate 60 years of the English Speaking Cursillo in Australia at an Ultreya on Saturday evening. This is bound to be full of joy with witnessing by our friends from many of the other dioceses.

This Encounter will be a great opportunity to come together to renew ourselves and to help newer cursillistas to go deeper and to understand more about our special Charism and purpose of the Movement, not just the weekend they attended.

Please continue to encourage those in your area to attend and promote it in your local newsletters.

Around the Dioceses:

Canberra/Goulburn

A successful weekend was held on 4-6 April led by Michael and Erica de Raadt at Galong Retreat Centre. There were 17 candidates (7 men and 10 women) including two seminarians. It was the first mixed weekend held in the archdiocese, conducted with separate tables for men and for women. Fr Mick McAndrew was Spiritual Director and his Talks and guidance were much appreciated by all. Thank you for your Palanca.

Cairns 3 Days

Cairns are holding their Three Days 2-5 May at the Genazzano Retreat Centre, Lake Tinaroo.

Maitland/Newcastle

Maitland/Newcastle is preparing for a Three Days in June.

Brisbane

A Cursillo Spiritual Day of Reflection on the topic “How to be an Intentional Participant at the Eucharist” will be held on 3 May and is to be led by Fr Adrian Farrelly.

Insurance

Our Treasurer, Joe Jambor has been exploring how we might get a better deal with our insurance cover but in the short term has not been successful. Joe will renew our cover this month which will give us 12 months to look at other options

APG

The new system of affiliation fees to fund the activities of the OMCC & APG is in the process of being approved. The APG Executive is preparing their 2025 budget.

Fund Raising

With the increase in the proposed fees needed to fund both the OMCC & APG and also the increase in our insurance premium there was a discussion at our Executive meeting on how we might increase our ability to meet these extra costs and to cover the requirements for our representatives travel costs both within Australia and overseas.

One suggestion was the running of a Silver Circle once or twice a year which could provide somewhere around \$2,000 per year. Another suggestion was to simply ask for donations as this has worked in some dioceses previously.

I would like your thoughts and suggestion on any other way this extra funding could be achieved.

Promotion & Renewal of the Movement

In the coming months I would like to begin discussions on how we might achieve the aim of how our Movement can be better recognised within our Church hierarchy and the wider Catholic community as a great tool for evangelisation. Not by what we say but the example of how we are living our faith life in all our environments.

Prayer

Please continue to pray during 2025, not only for the National Encounter but for all our 3 day weekends and also for the evangelisation of our environments through Cursillo.

Australian National Website (www.cursillo.asn.au)

Please continue to update our website, by sending items of interest to webmaster Pablo Rossi and encourage cursillistas in your area to visit the website to look at what is happening around Australia. Information about world Cursillo is available through the OMCC website: omcc-cursillos.org

Worldwide Cursillo

The World Ultreya is happening in Rome in June 2025 with three representatives from Australia and many more from the other APG countries including Vietnamese cursillistas living in Australia.

The countries of the Asia Pacific Group, which includes Australia, will hold an Encounter in The Philippines in November 2025.

Fr John's Message

As we mourn the passing of Pope Francis, we remember his deep love for the Cursillo Movement. I believe this is why he gathered representatives from each of the corners of the world to examine a form of governance that reflected how the spirit of God is proclaimed to every age and every nation. I think at the heart of this is the heart of the Cursillo Movement, that is to accompany each other in faith. In many ways Pope Francis modelled this in his pontificate where he lived the Charism of make a friend, be a friend and bring that friend to Christ. This was an evangelical love that saw Christ in each person, listened to their concerns and opened them to receive the Gospel with hearts set on fire. May we walk together in faith, hope and love. As we journey to Pentecost through these days of Easter, may we listen to Jesus who walks with us as we tell our stories and live our faith.

De Colores

Peter

Peter McMahon – National Cursillo President.