

Cursillo Movement of the Maitland- Newcastle Diocese APRIL 2025

s h a r i n g

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GREETINGS From GREG



From the President's chair

Welcome to a new year and an exciting one for our Movement in our Diocese and our country. It has been a busy start to the year, we have held our first Secretariat meeting and plans are well underway for events throughout the year.

The launch of the Jubilee year on the 2nd March will, hopefully, be well attended by Cursillistas within their parishes. It promises to be an event we haven't seen the likes of for many years.

Our coordinators for our three-day weekend in June have been busy 'calling and gathering' their team. With your continued prayer support, we know that all will go to God's plan. Now is the time to seek out and pray for those you may ask to come along and see what we are about.

As we celebrate 55 years of Cursillo in our Diocese, Bishop Michael has kindly offered to celebrate mass with our Cursillo community on the **18th May at 9.30am in the Cathedral**. Please mark this date in your diaries. We will let you know more details as preparations continue.

The National Encounter will be from the 19th to the 21st September at Varroville. Please mark this date in your diaries as well. It would be amazing to have as many Cursillistas from our diocese as possible attend, along with Cursillistas from all over the country. We will let you know when more details come to hand.

Our Ultreyas will soon return for another year. We eagerly await being able to gather as friends to support each other in all that we do.

I look forward to seeing you somewhere through the year

De Colores...

Greg



*55th Anniversary of
Cursillo in
Maitland - Newcastle
Diocese*

18th May 2025

9:30 Mass at Sacred Heart Cathedral with Bishop
Michael Kennedy. Followed by morning tea.

RSVP- Claire McWilliam

0413 044 382



Ultreya Witness Talk John A

The following text comes from the book of Sirach (6:5-6, 14-17) and is the background to the witness talk.

A faithful friend is beyond comparison: A kindly turn of speech multiplies a person's friends, and a courteous way of speaking invites many a friendly reply. Let your acquaintances be many, but your advisers one in a thousand. A faithful friend is a sure shelter, whoever finds one has found a rare treasure. A faithful friend is something beyond price, there is no measuring their worth. A faithful friend is the elixir of life, and those who fear the Lord will find one. Whoever fears the Lord makes true friends, for as a person is, so is their friend.

What am I Feeling:

A few weeks ago, I experienced the death of someone who has been my friend, guide, mentor and dare I say it Lay Spiritual Advisor since we first met in 1976-77. He has walked alongside me and guided me without telling me what I should do when challenges came across my path in this pilgrimage of life with Jesus in this world.

I had a special quality time with him at his aged care residence less than a week before he died.

As divine providence would have it, he passed on his Holy Communion Pyx to me through a member of our group reunion.

This moved me to pause (for a change) and reflect on what this pyx meant to him and in what it symbolized for me. The outcome of that reflection was that I was moved to pen a note to him expressing what this blessed pyx meant to me. What follows is a shortened version I want to share with you.

"Dear Friend,

Thank you for entrusting me with this wonderful treasure. It symbolises many things for me especially the pilgrimage of faith that Helen & I shared with you & your beloved wife.

In my prayer time today, it came to me that perhaps its greatest symbolism is that it was the vessel that carried Jesus, the blessed sacrament, that you physically carried to those who needed to receive Him.

In parallel with that it also represents the Jesus you carried in your soul and shared with all those you encountered throughout your life.

I remember well how it was the Jesus I encountered in yourself that gave me the freedom to express my faith using both action and word with those I have shared life with.

With heartfelt gratitude, I thank you.

Blessings and peace, John"



As time has moved on following his death, life has been scatty to say the least. My mind has had trouble being focused and seems to dart from subject to subject. I suppose riding a bicycle for the first time after the training wheels have been taken off or perhaps learning to ride a monocycle after riding something with 3 wheels or more would best describe the feelings. My 'action' seems 'scatty' - rudderless perhaps seems appropriate.

Thankfully I am still conscious of the presence of Jesus in my day to day living as I pick myself up out of the dust.

Friendship:

We hear much in both literature and personal witness on the importance of friendship as a core element of our movement. The founder of our movement describes friendship as the fundamental Charism given to him to be the basis of our movement.

When we were selecting the reading for the Ultreya we looked at both the Mass of the day and other sources that harmonised with Cursillo culture.

We settled on the passage quoted above. It is selected parts of the first reading for Friday of the 7th week of ordinary time. It struck a chord with what Helen, and I experienced through the friendship of my friend and his wife.

What follows is a brief summary of our time sharing our life journey.

Back in 1976 when Helen and I moved into the area where we now live, we were invited into a small faith sharing group by a couple in our parish. There were 5 couples in the group and over time we did some studies together and shared from our lives and over time we became very firm friends particularly with the couple who had invited us

into their midst. Ultimately after a couple of years we expressed the view that we would like to build on this spiritual particular part of our life. It was then that I then Helen went on a Cursillo 3 days. On our return from that we used to meet with our friends, but not in any regular fixed program. We met at various parish functions and at Mass.

There were times when Helen and I used to meet with this couple over a cup of coffee to share events that were taking place in our lives and they theirs and how the Lord has been at work through us. Over time they became very close friends. Even though our meeting times weren't close together. When we came together over a cup of coffee and catch up it was as if we only spoke to them last week. They have been true Christian people for us, always listening, walking alongside, challenging us and we challenged them – leaving us to make the decisions in life for ourselves and they theirs. We feel that we have been truly blest. About 3 years ago my friend's wife died and about a year later their daughter also died. This last couple of years have been difficult for him.

Conclusion

I say that Helen and I have been blessed as have the other people in the original group, in that we all experienced an ideal Precursillo journey that opened our souls to the Holy Spirit working through the Cursillo 3 days. The ongoing occasional contact of this couple alongside of the Group Reunions Helen and I have been in and some still in served to be an excellent Postcursillo journey for us.

As some would say we had a dream run being guided by this couple who 'Oozed' the life and person of Jesus through the Holy Spirit in the way they lived and related to those around them.

We have lived the Cursillo Charism of friendship as the Founder of our movement dreamed it could be.

And we have indeed walked with true friends.

De Colores.

The psalm below sums up my thanksgiving

PSALM Ps 118:12,16,18,27,34-35.

Guide me, Lord, in the way of your commands.

1. Blessed are you, O Lord;
teach me your statutes.
I take delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word. R.

2. Open my eyes that I may consider
the wonders of your law.
Make me grasp the way of your precepts
and I will muse on your wonders. R.

3. Train me to observe your law,
to Keep it with my heart.
Guide me in the path of your commands;
for there is my delight. R



Ultreya roster 2025

Month	Group	Time/place	Contact person
28 th Feb	Charlestown men's	7pm Diocese Resource Room	Rick McCosker
28 th March	Old Bar	7pm Old Bar Church	Linda Norris
April <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will now be 2nd May 	East Maitland	7pm East Maitland parish hall but TBC	Greg Standing
May	No Ultreya		
27 th June	Instructional	7pm Toohey Room	Greg Standing
25 th July	Secretariat	7pm Toohey Room	Claire McWilliam
29 th August	Raymond Terrace	7pm Raymond Terrace but TBC room	Anne Lloyd
26 th September	Charlestown women's	7pm Toohey Room	Meryl McCosker
31 st October	Forster	7:45pm Forster parish	Anne Moloney
28 th November	Thanksgiving Mass/AGM	7pm Toohey Room	Claire McWilliam

From the Spiritual Advisor

SPONSORING A CANDIDATE

*The work is accomplished above all
through the word and witness of*

The Cursillo Movement's Fundamental Ideas Book strongly recommends that PreCursillo should be developed as a function of what is first, last, and always the Cursillo Movement:

*to make possible the living out,
and the living out together,
what is fundamental for being Christian.*



the
the goal of

Eduardo Bonnín, our founding father, focused on the person, but not on the environment. He keeps reminding us of converting ourselves and others, and consequently, the environments will be automatically and naturally transformed.

**Friendship is key to Cursillo — friendship of the individual
with our self, with Christ, and with our brothers and sisters.**

THE APPROACH

1. Make a friend, be a friend. Pray. Build your friendship with your candidate.
2. Tell them about Cursillo; what being in Cursillo has done for you.
3. Look for a group in which your candidate can grow. Consider your own group reunion.
4. Make a time to talk with your candidate. If the candidate is married, speak to both partners together. Take at least the Cursillo Invitation. Read through it with those you are talking to and leave it with them. Tell them again what being in Cursillo has meant for you. Make yourself available to answer any further questions they may have.
5. Endeavour to get a "YES" response from your Candidate.
6. Follow Up!!!

WALKING WITH YOUR CANDIDATE

1. Complete the application form.

Section 1 - candidate keeps

Section 2 - candidate completes

Section 3 - sponsor completes & hands on to the Coordinator for the Three-Day Weekend.

2. Continue praying for your Candidate.

3. Make opportunities to deepen the friendship.

4. Ensure the Candidate receives the Acceptance Letter from the movement.

5. ARRANGE TRANSPORT. Preferably take the candidate to the venue and introduce him or her to some of the team.

6. Send a Palanca letter for all the team and for the Candidates. Remember to do your own Palanca (prayer and sacrifice) as well.

7. If you think it would be helpful, write a personal letter to your Candidate. This should be given to the Coordinators of the weekend.

8. Be at the Clausura to welcome your Candidate. If this is not possible, arrange for someone to be there on your behalf with your apology.

9. Ensure your Candidate knows the details of the Instructional Ultreya, has transport and is encouraged to attend.


10. Be at the Instructional Ultreya. If this is not possible, send apology and arrange for someone else to look after your Candidate.

If your Candidate is unable to attend you should do some up to ensure she or he understands the purpose of the movement.

11. Do everything you can to get your Candidate into a Group Reunion. This is the Sponsor's responsibility. Your Secretariat the team member on your Candidate's table will help you if necessary.

12. Continue contact, friendship and prayer for at least 12 months after the Three Days.

13. Encourage your Candidate to read some Cursillo literature. Candidates can start by reading "Keeping It Simple" which is a handout to every candidate on the weekend.



The 4th-Day
begins on
the Sunday
night at the
conclusion of the
Three-Day Weekend
and it represents
the rest of your

your
follow
and

Sharing a few thoughts ... from Anne Moloney

TO BE ON TEAM

Now what does it mean to BE ON TEAM, for a Cursillo 3 day W/E, other than preparing a talk and presenting it on the Weekend???

We are a Christian community working together for the purpose of bringing others into having a personal relationship with Jesus

We are all Leaders. No one person or role is more important than another.

We bring ourselves; with our own unique gifts and personal faith journey.

We share God's love with each other in friendship and through Prayer.

We make ourselves available and participate fully in our team training;

That is; 1 to build a spirit of community among team members;

2 to participate in workshop/critique of talks for content and presentation,

3 to fully understand that the W.E is for the benefit of the candidates. It is their personal experience and journey. Giving a talk is less than 50% of our role as team. Developing friendships through "corridor work" should be given priority.

Being part of the formation and journey together as a small community, working with Christ, is very special and one to be treasured. We are a Team until the opening session on Thursday evening when we become part of the greater Cursillo Movement

Finally remember that God loves us and has called us to be here and that we have answered Him by saying "Yes". Together and only together we will achieve what He asks of us.



LET'S GET THE WORD OUT in OUR PARISHES!

Choose from these Parish bulletin inserts/a poster...

Annual Diocesan Cursillo

The annual Diocese of Maitland- Newcastle 2025 Cursillo Retreat weekend will be held from 12-15th June at Rathmines with the theme "Called to Be". The Cursillo is actually a short course which will enrich your faith for the rest of your life. It is Christ-centred, based on gospel values and will be asking each participant

"How can I BE Christian in my many everyday environments?"

The Cursillo movement has been alive and active across the Maitland Newcastle Diocese since 1970. Cursillo represents a renewal within the life of the Church and is predominately led by lay people – both men and women.

If you are interested in joining the Cursillo Movement, enrolling for the Cursillo weekend, or just wishing to learn more about Cursillo, please feel free to contact either of the following:

Jane Scott Mb 0438009611 – email: janeloureyscott@gmail.com

or Greg Standing Mb:0412252218 – email: gregstanding@gmail.com

<https://mnnews.today/church/2024/58371-short-course-enriches-our-faith-for-the-long-haul/>



ANNUAL DIOCESAN CURSILLO

Does it ever feel like it is a real challenge to be fully Christian?

Do you wonder how to be more fully human, more

fully alive? If so, then you may like to consider attending our Cursillo weekend in June (June 12-15.)



During this communal experience at Catalina Conference Centre, Rathmines, you will be surrounded by people who are all committed to grappling with the above questions and exploring what it means to live a Christ-like life and to bring Gospel values into all our contexts, including family, work and community.

To be led predominantly by lay people, both men and women, the weekend will continue a proud tradition of offering Cursillo in this diocese for nearly six decades.

To find out more about Cursillo, or the weekend, please contact either Jane Scott or Greg Standing (see details below)

- Jane Scott - 0438 009 611 or email janeloureyscott@gmail.com
- Greg Standing - 0412 252 218 or email gregstanding@gmail.com

<https://mnnews.today/church/2024/58371-short-course-enriches-our-faith-for-the-long-haul/>



Come Journey with Us

To experience the Cursillo Three Day Weekend to be held at

CATALINA CONFERENCE CENTRE

171 Dorrington Rd Rathmines

(on the shores of Lake Macquarie)

Thursday 12th June at 7.30pm to Sunday 15th June at 5.30pm

Cursillo...

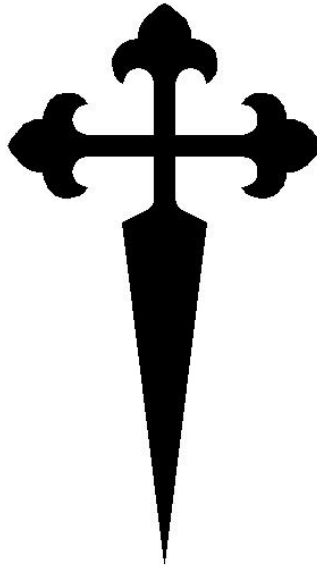
- Identifies what is fundamental to Christian living
- Emphasizes personal faith development
- Brings out each individual's responsibility for living the Christian life in the environment immediately around them
- Provides an enjoyable experience of living in a Christian community
- Led predominantly by lay people with support of clergy

CONTACT US:

Diocese of Maitland Newcastle Cursillo Movement

Jane Scott (0438 009 611) and Greg Standing (0412 252 218)

What you need to KNOW!



Cursillos in Christianity

Diocese of Maitland/Newcastle Cursillo Movement

WHAT IS CURSILLO?

The Cursillo movement operates in three stages, Precursillo, Cursillo Weekend, and Post Cursillo. The Weekend is a 3 day course on the Catholic concept of Christian living today. It is experience in group living, geared to discussing questions based on a series of talks which are given during the weekend.

- * What are your ideals?
- * What do you want to be?
- * How do you live the Christian way of life?
- * How do you set your priorities right - Your family? Your work?
- * How are you bringing Christ to the world?

AIM OF THE WEEKEND:

The aim of the weekend is to give the opportunity to men and women, both lay and religious, to take time off for reflection on what is fundamental in Christian living. The CURSILLO opens with a short Retreat which is a preparation for the three days of talks and discussions about living the life of grace and spreading it in one's own particular environment.

THE LONG TERM AIM OF CURSILLO:

The Cursillo is not a 'weekend wonder', solving all problems of the Church and Society. Rather, from talks and discussions on living the life of grace, the Cursillo aims to send people out to live life in their own environments. This, then, becomes a life-long process. Cursillo is not aiming to supplant existing Church organisations, but to provide support and encouragement for apostolic activity within these organisations. It does this by emphasising that everything in life for the Christian must be centred on union with Christ.

Your sponsor or the person who invited you will be available following the weekend to help you in any way you may need support.

- Where:** Catalina Conference Centre. 171 Dorrington Road, Rathmines 2283.
- When:** Thursday 12 June 2025 7.30 pm for 8 pm start
to approximately 5:30 pm on Sunday 15 June 2025
- COST:** \$360.00 per person, incl 3 nights accommodation, and all meals.
Single room supplement \$50

Cheques to: Maitland-Newcastle Cursillo, or may be paid on Thursday evening 12th June 2025, or by direct deposit to:-

BSB: 062 815 Account: 00328161 Reference: Agent 5086Surname.

Accommodation: You will need to bring your own toiletries and warm casual clothing. All meals & resources are included. For further information on the venue, visit Catalina Conference Centre website or

call Jane 0438 009 611 or Greg 0412 252 218

Save these Important Cursillo Dates

- **18th MAY** – 55th Anniversary Mass of Cursillo in our Diocese led by Bishop Michael at the Sacred Heart Church Hamilton at 9.30, followed by morning tea.
- **6th JUNE** – World Ultreya of the Cursillos in Christianity Movement to be held in the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls in Rome with the motto:
“Were not our hearts burning within us as He spoke to us on the way.”
Three representatives from Australia will be attending. This will be part of the Jubilee of Movements, Associations and New Communities which will be celebrated on 7th – 8th June on the feast of Pentecost in St Peters Basilica the Vatican.
- **12th-15th JUNE** - The 2025 Maitland Newcastle Diocesan Cursillo three-day Weekend held at the Catalina Conference Centre 171 Dorrington Rd Rathmines from 7.30pm 12th June to approx 5.30 pm Sunday 15th June.
Please contact Jane or Greg if you are able to welcome our candidates on the Thursday evening or if you are coming to the Closing Mass on Sunday afternoon at 4.30.
- **27th JUNE** - Instructional Ultreya The Toohey Room Hamilton 7.00pm start.
- **19th-21st SEPTEMBER** – National Encounter weekend at the Mt Carmel (Carmelite) Retreat Centre 247 St Andrews Rd Varroville near Campbelltown.
The motto for the weekend is “Pilgrims of Hope” and this is an opportunity to meet and encounter Cursillistas from all over Australia. Not to be missed!!!
- **10th – 14th NOVEMBER** – APG Encounter in the Philippines.
- **EVERY TIME YOU PRAY** - Don’t forget the power of your Palanca for this coming weekend. Your prayers and messages of loving support are most welcome.

EASTER BLESSINGS

MAY THE BLESSINGS OF THE LORD
GUIDE YOU, PROTECT YOU AND
SURROUND YOU IN ALL THE DAYS OF
YOUR LIFE.

Happy Easter

READ, LOVE AND LEARN