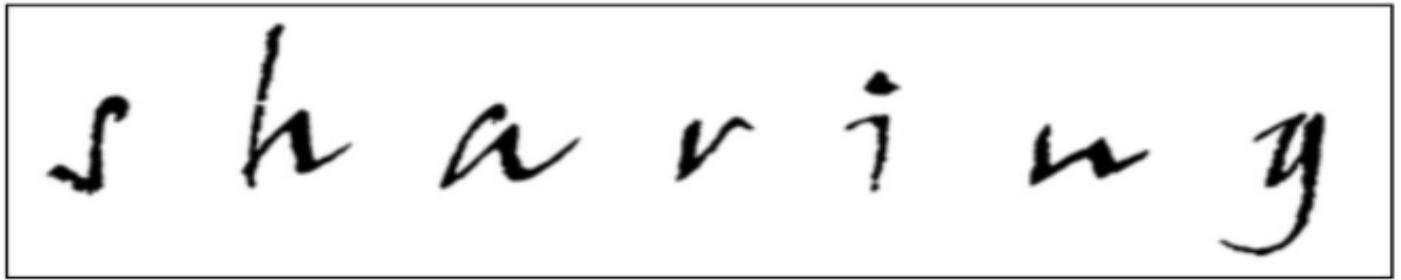


# Cursillo Movement of the Maitland-Newcastle Diocese

## SEPTEMBER 2025



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PLEASE PRAY FOR US AT THE

## **2025 CURSILLO NATIONAL ENCOUNTER**

**'PILGRIMS OF HOPE'**

**19<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> September**

**At**

**CARMEL HOUSE**

**Mt Carmel Retreat Centre**

**345 St Andrews Rd**

**Varroville, NSW**



**As we celebrate ...**

**And come alive to our Charism of Friendship ...**

**Bringing Hope to the World where we live ...**

**And celebrate 60 wonderful years of  
English Cursillo in Australia**



**Please pray for the Encounter – DE COLORES!**

August 8

## Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

*"Remember we are but Travellers here"* (MM 1867)

Here's how my Mary MacKillop alphabet would look:

**A**ussie, **B**rave, **C**ompassionate, **D**evoted,  
**E**cumenical, **F**orgiving, **G**rounded, **H**opeful,  
**I**nspiring, **J**ust, **K**ind, **L**ovable, **M**otherly, **N**atural,  
**O**pen, **P**oor, **Q**uesting, **R**eflective, **S**uffering,  
**T**rustful, **U**ncomplaining, **V**isionary, **W**orker,  
**X**cellent sense of humour, **"Y**es" person, **Z**estful.

...What would yours include?



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## Greetings from Greg



### From the President's Chair

Greetings Friends, I trust this edition of our Sharing finds you well. I hope you are keeping dry with all the rain we have had over these past few months. We remember those who have been affected by flooding and keep those communities in our prayers.

I warmly welcome our new Cursillistas, Aurora, Kerrie, Lisa, Mark, Monique, Nikki, Paul, Paul, Simone and Tanya. I hope you enjoy reading our Sharing magazine. I know that they were each touched by The Spirit in a special way during our Cursillo Three Days. We look forward to seeing each of you as we gather, sharing our journeys.

We have had a busy couple of months. We celebrated the 55th anniversary of Cursillo in our Diocese. Unfortunately, Bishop Michael was unwell and unable to celebrate mass for us, we thank Fr Greg Barker for the wonderful celebration and kind words he shared on

Cursillo. Thank you to those who came to celebrate with us and shared morning tea together, and to those who helped organize the morning. It was a wonderful celebration.

Our 2025 Three Day Cursillo was a wonderful time of renewal and sharing our love of God with each other and especially our new Cursillistas. Thank you for all the prayers offered. A special thank you to our coordinators Jane (and myself) and to our wonderful team for their time and commitment over many months to bring our Cursillo together. Lastly, to those who joined us for our Thanksgiving Mass, thank you.

Keep in mind our National Encounter to be held from the 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September at Varroville, Sydney. It promises to be a wonderful gathering of Cursillistas from across the country and further afield. There are a number of Cursillistas from our Diocese involved in presenting various parts of the Encounter. We are also selling raffle tickets to support our National Secretariat through our group reunions and at our Ultreyas.

You might like to think about our Team for 2026 (that sounds scary, 2026) and who might be a part of that. Feel free to nominate others or yourself. Please pray and think about this, we can only put a Cursillo weekend on, if people are prepared to be a part of it.

De Colores

Greg Standing

## Can I Say the Lord's Prayer?

I cannot say **OUR**, if I live in a watertight spiritual compartment; if I think a special place in Heaven is reserved for my denomination.

I cannot say **FATHER**, if I do not demonstrate that relationship in my daily life.

I cannot say **WHO ART IN HEAVEN**, if I am so occupied with the earth, that I am laying up no treasure there.

I cannot say **HALLOWED BE THY NAME**, if I who am called by His name am not holy.

I cannot say **THY KINGDOM COME**, if I am not doing all in my power to hasten its coming.

I cannot say **THY WILL BE DONE**, if I am questioning, resentful or disobedient to His will for me.

I cannot say **ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN**, if I am not prepared to devote my life here to His service.

I cannot say **GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD**, if I am living on past experience, or if I am an under-the-counter shopper.

I cannot say **FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US**, if I harbor a grudge against anyone.

I cannot say **LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION**, if I deliberately place myself, or remain, in a position where I am likely to be tempted.

I cannot say **DELIVER US FROM EVIL**, if I am not prepared to fight it in the spiritual realm with the weapon of prayer. (M W Gass. [Can I say the Lord's Prayer?](#))



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# Service

Witness July 2025

Read Matthew 20:25-28

As we have heard in Matthew's gospel, Jesus came not to be served, but to serve. I don't think there would be too many people in the world, that would fit into the mold of Jesus, not expecting at some point for themselves, to be served. But that is the example Jesus gave to us.

So how do I fit into that mold of service. I know for myself and possibly for you too, there is a fine line between being selfish and self-giving in regard to serving others. It is something I don't always think about, I do things for others because I love them not because I want to serve them, I guess the two go hand in hand.

That is what being a part of a family is about. I do things around the home from helping prepare food and cooking, some cleaning, washing and the list goes on. I make Adam his lunch for school when I make mine for work. It is probably spoiling him but sometimes it is easier to do both together. It is the act of service and love which keeps the home organized and harmonious as well.

Then there is the extended family. I set up a weekly zoom and send out the link for those meetings to my siblings and an aunt and uncle too. I don't know if someone else would do this if I didn't, it doesn't take long to do and it was the way we stayed in touch with each other during covid and we continued to meet this way together as well as getting together.

And Cursillo is part of my serving others as well. Especially this year in my role as one of the coordinators for our Cursillo weekend. There is a lot of time spent preparing for team meetings, making sure that everything is covered in preparing the team to the best of my ability. This is not a role I took on in the hope of what I might receive in the end. It was to bring our team together, to love them and each other, to prepare them in what they needed to ensure our candidates had the best experience of living in a Christian community which was welcoming and loving in all we did. Our act of serving.

One thing I have learnt over the last couple of years, especially through Cursillo, is not to be a servant of time. In my role as president, leading meetings it is very easy to be a time watcher. While I know it is important not to allow meetings to run forever, no one wants that, being present to people and what they may need to say is of far more importance. This is where I hear the wisdom of people and the voice of God.

One thing I have done this year, is read the reflection from Fr John sent out in our weekly update from Bernard. I try to read it each day during morning tea at work and reflect on what message may be for me, and how I can improve myself through it. This week has been on Martha and Mary being caught up in the preparations for the arrival of Jesus into their home. We all know what that is like, preparing for guests to arrive, and what happens after that.

It is important that in all the serving that is done as the host, that it does not take away from the time spent with people or the activity.

We all like to be served as well. We recently had a holiday to K, gari, Fraser Island, with my brother Rob, Mel, Alex and Johanna, and their friends Melinda, Dan and Sam. It was a very relaxing holiday, even the week before,

packing was stress free and easy, as we didn't need to organize food, Melinda had that all under control. Melinda and Dan have been to K, gari many times and had routines of preparation to go away. Melinda did a lot of cooking before we went, which meant it was only reheating food and a little bit of cooking to be done. Joanne and I sat back like royalty being waited on, no not really, we served ourselves dinner and helped the children clean up after each meal.

It was a wonderful time away. The other blessing, not that we knew it at the time, we had very little phone coverage. Occasionally I would get a message through and by the time I could answer it, no service. We didn't even watch tv, except for the disappointment of Origin. It was a real disconnect from the outside world.

We had to spend time together, with our family and with those with us. Connecting with nature, the beauty of driving along the beach watching whales cruising along or frolicking from time to time, seeing dingo's roaming, and the beauty of creation. It was nice not being servant to the internet and social media for most of that time away. We did have an afternoon on the western side of the island for that, watching the sunset while scrolling though Facebook or messenger, also checking and replying to emails. Eventually Joanne and I sat down with a glass of wine, and watched the world go by without any distractions.

Often, I forget what I need, and God shows me. After spending so much time this year on my computer, with emails, preparing Rollos and other Cursillo business, I have had time away from the computer and time to be. From the three days off work sick, after the Cursillo, to the holiday that felt like two weeks instead of one. I know that life will be busy again soon, now I feel that my cup has been filled again, I have been served so that I am ready to serve again.

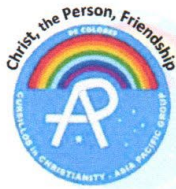
De Colores

Greg



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**Fr. Paul Nguyen Van Tung**, Spiritual Advisor  
**Anthony Phan Quang Thinh**, Vice-President  
**Goreth Z. Bendoy**, Secretary  
**Maria Tran Ngoc Tram Anh**, Treasurer  
**Alfred Bongi**, International Representative to OMCC

*Make a friend,  
 Be a friend,  
 Bring a friend to Christ*

**August 28, 2025**

**Bro. Peter McMahon**  
 President, CM Australia

**Thru** : **Sis. Anne Moloney**, International Representative  
**Subject** : **Invitation to the 23<sup>rd</sup> APG Encounter on November 10-14, 2025**  
**Theme: "Cursillo: A Tool for Evangelization in the Asian Region"**

Dear Bro. Peter & Sis. Anne,

A blessed day to all!

We are pleased to invite you to be part of our Encounter. The GOAL of this encounter is "A true and authentic friendship would be bolstered by a face-to-face contact. And the holding of the 23rd APG Encounter will elicit responses as a new way of walking together as a synodal church". The 5-day program aims to create an ambience of community of leaders, providing them with the opportunity to get to know one another.

**Event Details:**

**Name:** 23<sup>rd</sup> APG Encounter  
**Theme:** Cursillo, A Tool for Evangelization in the Asian Region  
**Venue:** Caleruega Retreat Center, Nasugbu, Batangas, Philippines  
**Date:** November 10-14, 2025  
**Registration/ Room Assignment:** 1pm  
**Start of Encounter:** Monday at 3:30pm  
**End of Encounter:** Friday at 1pm

**Topics & Speakers:**

**Topic #1 Cursillo as an instrument in Christian Renewal and Evangelization**  
 Abp. José Angel Saiz Meneses, OMCC Spiritual Advisor  
**Topic #2 Christian Renewal**  
 Most Rev. Daniel O. Presto, Bishop of San Fernando de La Union, Philippines  
**Topic #3 Evangelization in the Asian Region**  
 Most Rev. Joseph Trần Văn Toàn, Bishop of Long Xuyên Diocese, Vietnam

**Registration Fee:** 150 US Dollar

**Inclusions:**

- **Meals from Nov. 10-14, 2025**
  - Nov. 10 – PM Snack & Dinner
  - Nov. 11-13 – Breakfast, AM&PM Snack, Lunch & Dinner
  - Nov. 14 – Breakfast, AM Snack & Lunch
- **Room Accommodation from Nov 10-14**
- **Encounter Kit**

**What to Bring:**

- Personal toiletries and towels
- Maintenance Medicine, if applicable

Please arrive on or before the registration time to ensure a smooth check-in process and to allow yourself time to settle in before the sessions begin.

Additional information will send to you shortly such as the registration form, program, bank information and other necessary details.

Hoping and praying that by the grace of God you would be with us in this rare opportunity for the Cursillo Movement in the Asian Region.

In Christ and Mary,

  
**Bro. Conrado**

## The Men's Camino

This is the second year of the men's Camino in the Maitland Newcastle diocese.

I've always been obsessed with the amount of people. I wanted big numbers of people to attend.

But God has put it on my heart to focus on the one lost sheep.

God says in the Bible that he leaves the 99 sheep for the one lost sheep.

God has been putting it on my heart to focus on one person at a time.

To get to know people the way God gets to know people.

God is not worried about attendance.

He is worried about the one lost sheep.

This year was a very powerful year. We only had a small attendance.

The people who attended were really committed to God.

We had the best time. Time with other men.

Lots of laughter in the prayer community.

We had lot of good quality time together.

We got to know each other really well.

Once on the way to Tighes Hill, we said the Rosary three times. We prayed the Rosary at the Immaculate Heart of Mary church, and we prayed on our knees at Sacred Heart Cathedral.

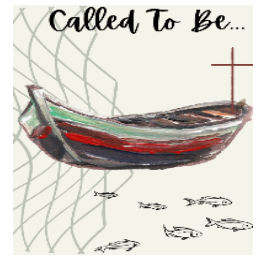
We had a fantastic time.



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## Where is God Leading You Now?

**What spiritual gifts has He graced you with, so that you may share His deep love and message?**



I remember reading an article in last year's Sharing Magazine by Mike Norris, "When God Calls You to Be on Team." His words resonated deeply, as I felt a strong spiritual nudge to put my hand up to be a Coordinator—despite my relatively short time within the Cursillo Movement.

I joined Cursillo in 2022, after 3 years of living in Newcastle and during a stage in my life where I was searching to live a fully Christian life with other joy filled authentic Christians... From my very first encounter with other Cursillistas, I knew God had placed me exactly where I was meant to be. I am certain it was the work of the Holy Spirit drawing me into this journey.

In 2024, I had the privilege of serving on team under the leadership of Mike and Linda Norris. It was an amazing, faith-filled experience—not only an opportunity to deepen my understanding of this beautiful movement, but also a time of spiritual growth, sharing, and team building. The preparation days strengthened my desire to serve and gave me the confidence to step further into God's calling. After this experience, I found myself asking: Where is God leading me now? In my heart, I knew I had both the spiritual gifts and the desire to give more, trusting in the Spirit to work through and around me.

At our AGM last year, after several months of searching for a female Coordinator without success, I again felt God's nudge: "Jane, put your hand up—you can do this!" With the encouragement of others and knowing I would be supported by the strong leadership of Greg Standing, I accepted the challenge to step into this role. Our theme emerged naturally: "Called to Be."

Many of us are called to be many things—care givers, wives, grandparents, husbands, teachers, parish workers, servants, leaders, encouragers, prayers, and companions on the journey.

I challenge you to question whether the way you are using your spiritual gifts still bring you joy. **Is God asking you to do more in your commitment to Cursillo?** Remember God doesn't need those who always lead from the front or have all the experience.



Our June Weekend certainly showed how our team's unique gifts combined with God's grace and unwavering strength, blessed us with many memorable spirit- filled moments.

The call of Jesus is always open- ended. We may hear the call and respond but we never know where it may take us. The call to be a Co-Ordinator was certainly one I am forever grateful I accepted and thankfully trusted that God would be travelling right in that boat with me every step of the way.

**Where is God calling you to serve next? May He Lead,** guide, and continue to walk with you as we journey together, saying "yes" to the plan that God have ***called us to be.***



As Scripture reminds us:

"Blessed is that servant whom the Lord finds awake when He comes and knocks at the gate" (cf. Lk 12:36–37).

De Colores. Jane







## *Out of Tune*

Today Jesus walked into my room,  
Strumming an out of tune guitar.  
I looked up from my work  
and He said " G'day!"

I was very busy so I just  
said, " G'day!" back.  
He said, " How's things?"  
I said, " Hm Hm... ".

He strummed a few chords.  
I said, " Can you take that  
thing away, I'm busy!"

He said, " Thought I'd just  
hang out here."  
I said, " Buzz off - I'm working  
on a Religion Essay!"

He shuffled off,  
strumming out of tune.

Funny thing about Jesus,  
He always seems to turn up,  
when you are to busy  
to be bothered!

