**Cursillo Long Weekend Retreat – Reconnecting with Our Faith**

The May 2025 Cairns Cursillo retreat was a resounding success, bringing together thirty participants—including team members and new attendees—from across the Diocese, including Millaa Millaa, Innisfail, and Cairns. This enriching weekend provided an opportunity for spiritual renewal and deepened faith.

Guiding the retreat was our new Spiritual Advisor, Fr. Biju Kuriakose, alongside guest speakers Fr. Matthew Kochuveettil, Fr. John Matthew, and Rev. Peter De Haas. The serene surroundings of Genazzano Retreat Centre at Lake Tinaroo provided the perfect backdrop for reflection, prayer, and an immersion in spirituality.

Participants embraced the joy of faith, forging meaningful connections with like-minded Christians through meditation, early morning prayers, and daily celebrations of the Eucharist. Their voices rose in song, their spirits lifted, and their conversations deepened over shared meals.

The retreat featured an interactive course with engaging short presentations and small group discussions, providing practical insights into how piety, study, and action serve as keys to spiritual growth. More than just a weekend experience, the Cursillo Movement fosters ongoing faith development, encouraging participants to stay connected through regular meetups with fellow committed Christians on their journey toward holiness.

Wesley Stifle, President of the Cursillo Movement, shared his thoughts: "My spiritual life is what it is because of the seeds planted that took deep root through my Cursillo experience."

The Cursillo Movement welcomes all Catholics—whether couples or singles—and is especially beneficial for those who have completed the RCIA program, work in Catholic schools, or are seeking to rekindle their faith after time away from church.

Originating in Spain in the 1940s, the Cursillo Movement has since expanded to 60 countries and various Christian denominations. With a papal mandate and endorsement by diocesan bishops, its mission remains strong. The movement began in Cairns in the mid-1970s and has been running weekend retreats ever since.

For more information about the Cursillo Movement or the next weekend retreat in mid-2026, please visit www.cairns.catholic.org.au or cursillo.asn.au