



*The Escarpment*  
*Newsletter of the Wollongong Cursillo Movement*

*Issue 1, 2022*

## **A PRAYER FOR PEACE IN UKRAINE**

Heavenly Father, your son taught us:

“Blessed are the Peacemakers for they shall be called children of God.”

In this time of great worry, we fervently Pray that your Holy Spirit sustain all the people of Ukraine to be vigilant and dedicated to peace and justice. Grant their leaders wisdom and prudence. Yet may they also have the strength and perseverance to defend their land from all adversity and foreign attacks. Help us all to live according to your Divine Will.

O God, our Father, in the days to come, we beseech you to comfort the suffering, heal the wounded, and accept the souls of the faithfully departed into your Heavenly Kingdom. We ask also that the most Holy Mother of God extend her blessed mantle of protection over our Ukraine. Amen.

*Source: Ukrainian Catholic National Shrine of the Holy Family*

# THE 3 DAY WOMEN'S WEEKEND

Was held at St. Mary's Towers Douglas Park

17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022



What a wonderful weekend we had. At last it happened on our 4<sup>th</sup> attempt almost 2 years after our original date. But as the saying goes all good things come to those that wait, and wait we did very patiently.

We welcomed 12 beautiful new Cursillistas into our Wollongong Cursillo family.

They are: Pam Cooke, Shirley Parker, Mila Talmage, Janice Ross, Diane Fowler, Angie Micallef, Barbara Moussalli, Emelie Guntan, Maria Dsouza, Pru Hall, Sue Spiteri and Sharon Wilkins.

Welcome to your 4<sup>th</sup> day Ladies. May the Blessings you received on your weekend stay with you always and may the Holy Spirit guide you in your Prayer, Study and Action.

Fr. Chris was our Spiritual Director once again and admirably stood tall among 23 women. He led us spiritually and helped us all to see the road ahead a little clearer and was a good sport at the Fiesta.

Bishop Brian came to the Closura, he spoke to us about when he became a Cursillista as a young man before he became a Priest. He encouraged us all in our 4<sup>th</sup> day and to bloom where we are planted.

**PALANCA** – Denise Sciberras and Pauline Ranger organised the Palanca at Douglas Park during the weekend. They stormed Heaven with Prayer as did all those who Prayed with them at DP and at home for us and we were certainly touched by your Sacrafice.

**MANANITA** – Angels from Heaven descended upon us during our Morning Prayer on Sunday. All of us were touched and a little emotional by the beautiful voices and wonderful Prayer that was given to us in song.

## **SOME THOUGHTS FROM OUR NEW CURSILLISTAS ON THEIR WEEKEND EXPERIENCE:**

Praises and thanks to God for the meaningful, memory packed Cursillo weekend. I'm very grateful for meeting new friends with kindred souls and beautiful hearts providing those Faith enriching "Rollo's". The seamless flow of all activities and the snacks/teas. Everyone was so welcoming, friendly, attentive and accepting during the group sessions and the casual chats in between that made me feel at home and at ease to express myself and share. Loved the fun-filled joyous Fiesta night.

The total experience is a reflection of what I believe the kind of Christian life the Lord wishes for us and I aspire to have interactive, fully human, Prayerful

growing in spirit and Wisdom and service orientated as we share in his Divinity. See more of us soon and always. Hasta leugo mis companeras Cursillistas.

Emelie

*Hi Denise,*

*Just unpacking my bag of goodies from the weekend and found the photo and the feeling was wonderful seeing all those faces again filled me with joy. it now has pride of place on my fridge.*

*I am really looking forward to seeing you all again. Checking my calendar it might take me a little settling in time to get into a routine but know that you are in my thoughts prayers.*

*Please thank the team for me. It was an amazing weekend.*

*Now enjoy a well earned rest.*

*Yours in Christ,  
Barbara*



*I would like to thank you all so much on such a beautiful grace filled and thought provoking weekend.*

*What a spiritually and emotionally charged weekend. I felt so enriched and could feel God's presence in the room as, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Cursillistas gave inspirational testimony to God's work within their own lives and showed us how we can all be witnesses of our faith to others by acts of piety, study and action in our world.*

*Such an awe inspiring weekend.*

*Thank you once again. No higher praise than to feel forever changed.  
May God continue to bless you all in all your wonderful work.*

*Take care  
Sue*



**C- comforting**

I felt as though I was surrounded by family

**U- uninhibited**

The freedom to speak openly and honestly without judgement

**R- respected**

The leaders blended in and made us all feel on the same level

**S-safe**

From the moment I arrived there was a sense of calm both emotionally and physically

**I- inspiring**

Every rollo was deeply inspiring and uplifting

**L- learning**

From this retreat I have become hungry for more and am ready to go where God leads me

**L-loving**

This has been an extremely loving and spiritual experience

**O- overflowing**

For me this weekend was overflowing with food, fun and friendships that I will cherish for a lifetime and perhaps even eternity.

God bless 🙏✝️ and thank you all so very much.

Yours sincerely Sharon xxx



*I give glory and praise to God for planning this Cursillo weekend for me. In His wisdom, He led me to a long weekend of rest and peace and friendship with my sister Cursillistas.*

*I chose to come for the retreat only because of the location and due to the fact that I have attended silent retreats here. This retreat, as I was made aware by Denise was a different one. And sure enough, it was!!*

*From the moment of being greeted, as I parked my car and entering the retreat centre, everything was as if my good Lord had planned everything just for me!!*

*My name tag had a sticker PATIENCE on it, I laughed straightaway as I was praying for a very long time to the Lord to give me patience..*

*My name butterfly had a few stickers...I stared at the one that said LIVE IN THE MOMENT.*

*Another laughing moment, coz I am always thinking what I can do next!!*

*What struck me the most was the effort our core team had put in, their personal inputs and testimonies left me in tears. The group sharing left me humbled to know we are all in this together, we need each other's support and love.*

*There were also our Palancas praying for all this to go according to the Lords plan!! A very emotional moment as they came around our circle of Cursillistas and sang in their heavenly voices. Though I cannot remember what they sang, I just felt I was in a heavenly place, surely we had angels singing around us. Many were teary eyed as they left to pray once again.*

*The fiesta planned was simply great. I enjoyed every moment of the group activities and the food and drinks. And the memories of the music and dance will always be etched in my memory and will bring a smile on my face.*

*I came away a different person from the weekend. I now wake up an additional 30 mins earlier than usual to surrender my day to Our Father. I was never a "pray from a prayer book type of person" but I am actually enjoying reading my morning and night prayers, and also the prayers of meditation before and after reading the Word.*

*I am really grateful for the monthly meetings and the Ultreya. Though I may not attend every single one of them, I will try my best to attend, as my work schedules permit.*

*I am enjoying my Day 4 and with everyone's support and prayers will continue doing so.*

*Thank you everyone for all your prayers.*

*Maria*



## **SOME THOUGHTS FROM OUR TEAM**

I made my first weekend in 2017 so 5 years down the track there were many aspects of the weekend which I had forgotten. Firstly, I was most impressed with the amount of preparation which was entailed by the team and especially by Denise the leader and her able helper Lesley. I was also impressed with the alternate venue of St. Mary's Towers, a beautiful old building and its facilities; the chapel, and the many uses to which the chapel could be put; its kitchens and delicious food.

There were so many smiling faces, both from the team and those experiencing Cursillo for the first time, as we all arrived to find people rushing around to set up and to provide a welcome. And the smiles kept coming - even though we were in set seats (covid rules abounded) there were opportunities to speak to everyone, to meet with different ones over a meal or to walk with them in the lovely grounds.

The discussion groups were enlightening, so much was shared (to be kept confidential) with varying viewpoints. Father Chris was a focal point with his talks and the way he picked up on what others had said, and with his availability for chats or for Reconciliation. The opportunity for daily

Mass was a gift. The Prayer for the sick which had each of us praying with Father over each participant was beautiful.

The Fiesta was a lovely time of laughter and relaxation, with the definite top of the bill being Denise and Father Chris. It was good to have that small break from the intensity of the sharing, the talking and praying. The Mananita brought me to tears, what a blessing you all were to us. Most of all I am grateful for those behind the scene visitors, the Palanca team (who were there out of sight and mind for most) but whose prayers for the speakers and listeners were invaluable.

Thank you so much to all, to my new and older friends whose companionship opened my mind and heart to Christ's love and to those who did so much to make the weekend possible. I hope to see you all at the Ultreyas in the future. And if you can't get there you will still be in my thoughts and prayers.

*Lesley F.*

## **Ladies Cursillo Weekend 2022**

Twelve new cursillistas were welcomed into the Australian Catholic Cursillo Movement after their 3-day weekend during March.

This year, the weekend was spent at St Mary's Towers, Douglas Park which provided a very peaceful and serene backdrop to the movement that was happening in the hearts of the candidates.

Everybody attending could sense the Holy Spirit working wonders as we listened to some wonderful rollos and then discussed the meaning we each received from them. Ladies shared their stories and experiences during time of leisure as well as discussions and friendships emerged as a result. The weekend was full of funny moments and touching moments, as will happen when people feel heard and loved as they are. Of course, we prayed together and played together, and this made the entire experience a joyful one and showed the value and reality of Real Christian Living.

The mananita was wonderful with many tears around the room, some saying they felt overwhelmed by the love felt. The Palanca team was widely appreciated by all candidates, so much so that they had me go and tell them so. A huge thank you to the Palanca team, and especially Denise Scibberas who travelled from Port Macquarie in order to lead the team.

As a surprise and to top the weekend off, Bishop Brian made a presentation to each Cursillista and gave a warm and welcoming talk to all.

Curating such a weekend is not happenstance but is the real-life efforts of many people – in particular Denise D’Amore, who led the team/the weekend with as much diligence as aplomb. The team did their best to support Denise and overall, the weekend was a resounding success with many happy new cursillistas now experiencing their 4<sup>th</sup> day.

Kathy Randal

## REUNION GROUPS

| LOCATION                                  | CONTACT                   | MEETING                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b><i>Eagle Vale Ladies - Day</i></b>     | Contact Pauline Ranger    | Currently meeting via Zoom                                            |
| <b><i>Campbelltown Ladies – Night</i></b> | Contact Margaret French   | Currently meeting via Zoom                                            |
| <b><i>Dapto Men’s - Night</i></b>         | Contact Matthew Nicholson | 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the Month              |
| <b><i>Camden Ladies - Day</i></b>         | Contact Dianne Garland    | Meet 2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday at 10am in Camden   |
| <b><i>Tahmoor Ladies - Day</i></b>        | Contact Lesley Wyatt      | 1 <sup>st</sup> Mon of each Month at 1.30pm in Tahmoor / Buxton areas |
| <b><i>Rosemeadow Men – Night</i></b>      | Contact Lester Smith      | Meeting time and place TBA                                            |
| <b><i>Wollongong Ladies - Day</i></b>     | Contact Elizabeth Gill    | 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday of the month<br>10am                           |

## ULTREYAS



**Wollongong Ultreyas are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month from 2pm.**

Our Ultreyas will meet face to face from April unless notified.

The following Ultreyas will be held on the:

**9<sup>th</sup> April – at Tahmoor** – Organising group is Tahmoor ladies (Note this is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat)

**21st May – at Camden – Instructional Ultreya** - Organised by Secretariat

**18<sup>th</sup> June – at Kiama** – Organising group TBA

Ultreya organiser is Kristine Flood – [kristineflood@outlook.com](mailto:kristineflood@outlook.com)

### **ADDRESSES FOR THE ABOVE ULTREYA'S**

St Anthony's – 20 Stratford Rd, Tahmoor

Heritage hall, St. Paul's school grounds, 26 John St. Camden

Sts. Peter and Paul, Manning St. Kiama

## **WATCH THIS SPACE**

There will be a major fundraiser this year, possibly a walkathon as the last one was very successful. More details will come out after the next Secretariat meeting to be held in April.

Also some smaller fundraising events will include the "Trading table" and raffles at Ultreys so please bring your spare change with you. Also we will have one or two "Pot Luck" lunches or dinners during the year. Look out for those they are a lot of fun.

Anyone who wishes to take over the "Fundraising organiser" position please let our President, Dianne know. I think this is the right time for me to take a step back and let someone else have a turn.



*Denise*

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2022**

Subscriptions for 2022 are now due

The yearly subscription is \$20 per family.

This enable us to pay our yearly commitments which are: \$650 for public liability insurance and approx. \$550 affiliation fees to the Australian Cursillo Movement.

You can give Pauline (Our treasurer) the money at an Ultreya, send a cheque or use online transfer.

The payment details are below:

***Payment details for subscriptions:***

*Diocese of Wollongong Cursillo Movement,*

*BSB 641 800,*

*A/c No. 200459499*

***Send cheques to:***

*Pauline Ranger 17 Brierley Place Eagle Vale N.S.W. 2558*

The next Escarpment will be out in July 2022.

If you have something you wish me to put in the next Escarpment please send it to me by early July.

Please continue to keep each other in your prayers.

Thank you to all the Cursillistas who contributed to this Escarpment.

Contact details – denisedamore0@gmail.com

Phone: 0438254139

De Colores

Denise and helpers