



The Way and The Eagle February 2025

Cursillo Movement of the Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn

From Alfred's desk

First and foremost, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Michael for stepping into my shoes, and to Joe, Irma, Amanda, Gerry, and Gary for keeping the Cursillo activities alive during my absence. I also want to thank everyone who dedicated their time to teams, Ultreyas, and other events. Our Archdiocese is truly blessed with so many people willing to serve Jesus.

We are the people of the first proclamation. Our mission is to share the gospel message with everyone in our lives, especially those who have never heard that God loves them. We might be the first ones to deliver this message. Through Cursillo's foundational charism, friendship, we have a very effective way to do this. Everything we do should be done through friendship – hence why we say: 'Make a Friend. Be a friend. Bring that friend to Jesus.'

For the past 13 months, my wife Angela and I have been living in Italy, in a city not far from Assisi, Umbria. We travelled extensively, allowing me to see firsthand places connected to St. Francis of Assisi, a hero of mine. We also visited Mallorca, the birthplace of Cursillo, and England, where our first grandchild was born during the year.

Immersing ourselves in the local customs and events gave us a deeper understanding of those countries' rich cultures. Italy, for example, celebrates its saints much more comprehensively than I had experienced in Australia. In Mallorca, I visited the place where the first Cursillo was held in 1944, and that where the first Vatican-approved Cursillo was held in 1949. I prayed in front of the graves of two of the Movement's founders, Eduardo Bonnin Aguilo, and Mons. Sebastian Gaya Riera. I visited Eduardo's office, where he received a countless stream of people every day and where he wrote his numerous articles and talks. There's also a warehouse, where more of his material is housed. He was a prolific writer. Eduardo's materials are currently being sorted, catalogued, and examined as part of the process for his canonisation. I took part in Cursillo's 80th celebrations and joined in on group reunions, Ultreyas, and in leaders' school while in Italy.

I think I have returned to Australia a different person. I have learnt a great deal more about our Movement, my faith has grown, and I have made more new friends. I hope to share some of what I discovered in future articles and during our future gatherings.

De Colores

Alfred

A reflection - Community

Cursillo for me has been a journey of love, faith, friendship, learning, support, challenges and encouragement. I thank God for all the wonderful people far and wide I have met along the way who have enriched my life in so many ways.

To know and experience God's love through so many is a blessing.

De Colores,

Joy Harmer

Walking with Jesus

Below is a link to Fr. John's reflections for your enjoyment and Spiritual nourishment.

<https://walkingonthewayofjesuswithjohn.blogspot.com/?m=1>

What the Wind Says

Listen to the wind. It has something to tell you.
Whether it is as quiet as the current
That lifts the hawk to circle the sky
Or as loud as the storm chasing high waves to shore:
The wind has something to say.

There is a word for each of us, a message sent directly
That flows through the wind each day
Offering us insight and vision, clarity and creative ideas
If only we will stop long enough to receive it.

Be still. Be awake. Trust your spiritual senses.
Listen to the wind. The Spirit is speaking to you.

From Steven Charleston book Spirit Wheel.





Wisdom is the art of living in rhythm
with your soul, your life and the divine.
~ John O'Donohue

May I recognize and revere the goodness residing in my being.
May I identify something each day for which to give thanks.
May I cherish the memories that foster my happiness.
May I be attentive to how to I use the gifts of time and energy.
May I forgive my bodily parts when they do not cooperate.
May I accept what I am unable to control or alleviate.
May I stay open to what stretches my mind and heart.
May I have the courage to make unwelcomed transitions.
May I be disposed to part with my material possessions.
May I retain hope even when discouragement looms large.
May I recognize the worth of valuable life experiences.
May I graciously receive the kindness and assistance of others.
May I find comfort in trusting the nearness of the Holy One.

Enlightening Presence, you have accompanied me through the darkness and the light of my ongoing, personal transformation. You have journeyed with me into the havens of joy and the deserts of disappointment. Now in the late years of my life, your love leads me to see who I have become and to embrace the fruitful wisdom residing within myself. May this wisdom be a source of strength as I move into whatever lies ahead. I entrust my entire being into your loving care.

Vessels of Love: Prayers and Poems for the Later Years, Joyce Rupp

News from the National Secretariat

Worldwide Cursillo

Our Asia Pacific representative on the OMCC world body, Alfred Bongsi continues to do wonderful work in his role and communicates to us all that is happening on the world scene. A new system of affiliation fees has been put in place to fund the activities of the OMCC. The APG Executive will also need to prepare a budget to fund its activities, including attendance of its Executive at an OMCC Meeting and the World Ultreya in Rome in June 2025, as well as an APG Encounter in the Philippines in November 2025. In October, our International Representative, Anne Moloney attended the V Conversations of Cala Figuera in Mallorca, the birthplace of Cursillo, and reported that it was very worthwhile.

Anniversary Celebrations

The year 2025 will be a year of celebrations, as it has been designated by the Church as the Year of Hope. Wollongong Diocese will reach the 25 years milestone in June and plans are underway to contact and invite past cursillistas to an anniversary Mass and meal and to share stories. Our Australian English-speaking Movement will celebrate its 60th Anniversary at the upcoming National Encounter at Carmel House, Varroville just south of Sydney in the Wollongong Diocese from 19 to 21 September 2025.

National Encounter 19-21 September 2025

Plans are still underway for this event and more information will be available in the New Year. Please mark the dates in your new diaries for 2025, as the venue is already booked. The focus of the Encounter will be on the Promotion and Renewal of the Cursillo Movement in Australia.

In the discussion at the recent Executive Meeting, it was felt that it would be good to go back to our foundations to refresh the memory and understanding of Cursillo, for all cursillistas both old and new. Perhaps what the Holy Spirit is asking us to do is to light the fire of Cursillo within our hearts once again, so that we will feel inspired and enthusiastic to continue to carry the flame out into our environments. We may need to be reminded that Cursillo is more than the process of running weekends, but also involves taking God's love into every sphere of life. If we go back to the purpose of Cursillo as established by our founder, Eduardo Bonnín, we will rediscover the reasons why we were first so attracted to being a part of this Movement and can impart this enthusiasm to others.

Due to past Covid restrictions, we have not been able to hold an Encounter for some years. The Encounter this year will be a great opportunity to come together to renew ourselves and to help newer cursillistas to go deeper and to understand more about the charism and purpose of the Movement, not just the weekend they attended. I sincerely ask you to encourage those in your area to attend, particularly those who show future leadership potential. Please start 'walking' with them now! We will keep you updated about the program and registration details as the year progresses, but please start talking about the Encounter every time you meet with cursillistas and promote it in your local newsletters.

De Colores,
Peter McMahon, Cursillo National President

Save the Dates



April 2025

The Cursillo Movement in Canberra-Goulburn is holding the first mixed weekend in the archdiocese:

- a **Cursillo for Men and Women**
- at **St Clements Retreat Centre, Galong**
- from **Fri 4 to Sun 6 April 2025**
- Closures **4 pm Sun 6 April 2025**

The coming Cursillo will be the culmination of months of preparation by an enthusiastic team. We are blessed by having Fr Mick MacAndrew as the Spiritual Director.

Michael and Erica de Raadt are Lay Directors for this special Cursillo, back up by a mixed team from previous Cursillo with some new faces.

Consider Renewal

If you have attended a Cursillo previously, but feel the need for renewal, you are welcome to attend again. Register as normal and note your past involvement.

Come to the Closures

If you can't make it for the whole weekend, we hope you can come to the Closures at 4pm on Sun 6 Apr. Celebrate our new Cursillistas and show them the community they have joined. If you need transport assistance, please let us know.

Recruit Candidates

Please consider your family, friends, associates and fellow parishioners as candidates to attend the Cursillo. Candidates do not need to be regular Mass attendees, in fact Cursillo can be very effective for those on the edge of the Church. Several resources are attached to this email.

- Handouts for the upcoming Cursillo, which can be printed four-to-a-sheet.
- The latest brochure, describing Cursillo generally.

If you are in email communication with a possible candidate and want a simple way to point them to information, share the URL <https://bit.ly/cursillo2025>

National Dates of interest

6 June 2025 Cursillo World Ultreya in Rome, in association with the Church's Jubilee Year, as well as gatherings of Ecclesial Movements. Alfred Bongi will be our representative.

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October or November 2025 23rd Cursillo Encounter of Asia Pacific Group in the Philippines. Dates to be advised.

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The next '**The Way and The Eagle**' will be in May 2025

If you would like to contribute, please email the editor in the first or second week of May.

Any contributions are appreciated, particularly news about members. It is always welcome, as nice to hear from friends from afar.

ajocumsen@yahoo.com.au

