



The Way and the Eagle

Cursillo Movement of the Archdiocese of Canberra & Goulburn

February 2026

From the Editor

Welcome to the new year for our Cursillo Movement. The committee and myself hope you have a wonderful year for spiritual growth while enjoying your Group Reunions and Ultreya.

We are heading into the Lenten season where many of us will attend Lenten programs in our Diocese and online. May the Lord touch your hearts in big and small ways.

Below are links to a couple of websites for your reference.

- [Lent & Easter Prayers & Reflections - My Catholic Life](#)
- [Lent 2026: A Catholic Guide To All The Lent Resources - Catholic-Link](#)
- [Lenten Program 2026 Sample - Catholic Diocese of Wollongong](#)

De Colores!

Amanda (TW&TE Editor)

History of Cursillo in Australia

To provide some background, the first Cursillo took place in 1944 on Mallorca. 'De Colores' was first sung during a Cursillo in 1948. The first 'official' Cursillo was held in 1949, also on Mallorca. It is interesting to review how Cursillo was born on the island of Mallorca then

spread rapidly, firstly to South America 1953, then to the USA in 1957. Last year English speaking Cursillo celebrates sixty years since the Movement came to Australia.



Spanish speaking migrants first brought Cursillo to Australia and helped a Capuchin Spanish priest, Fr Martin at Leichardt in Sydney to hold Cursillo weekends from 1963 to 1965. The first English speaking Cursillo in Australia was held at Armidale NSW in July 1965, at the instigation of an American academic, Chuck Heller, who had been appointed to the University of New England. The first team consisted of some of the Spanish cursillistas, as well as three of Chuck's friends, who flew over from the USA. Fr Donne Taylor of Michigan was the Spiritual Director, whose fare was paid by a generous American cursillista.



Subsequently, the second English speaking Cursillo in the Sydney area was in October 1965 at Wahroonga. Many priests attended as candidates, curious to find out what this new Movement was about.

In December 1965 the first Cursillo for Women was held in Armidale. It was unusual, in that the team consisted entirely of men! Twelve religious and thirty-one lay women attended as candidates.



One of the candidates at the first weekend in Armidale was John Cooney, who was living in Canberra at the time and who was instrumental in bringing Cursillo to the Canberra/Goulburn Archdiocese in January 1966. It was held at St Michael's Agricultural College at Inveralochy near Goulburn. John Cooney led this first weekend here with a team based in Sydney, as well as three members of the Spanish Cursillo. One of them was Joe Sangiau a Spanish speaking cursillista living in Canberra, who was the driving force. There were ten candidates from Canberra as well as seven priests from elsewhere.

In December 1968 the first Canberra weekend for women was held at Ursula College at the ANU, led by a team of women from Sydney.

Between 1965 and 1988 Cursillo spread to seventeen Australian dioceses. The view was expressed that there was a need for a National Body and a group of cursillistas from around Australia gathered in Canberra in 1975 to explore this concept. The first National Cursillo conference was held in Brisbane in May 1977. A National Secretariat was formed to coordinate activities within the Diocesan Secretariats and internationally. Australia was represented at the fourth World Meeting of Cursillo in Venezuela in 1988.

The 60th anniversary of English speaking Cursillo was celebrated in September last year at the National Encounter at Varroville, NSW. The 60th anniversary of Cursillo in Canberra/Goulburn is in 2026. By the grace of God and the prayers of many, thousands of Australians have deepened their faith and followed Jesus more closely through Cursillo. A cause for celebration!

Merran Martin (with information from "The Australian Pilgrimage - The First 25 years through the Cursillo Movement" and photos supplied by Alfred Bongi)

Happy 60th Anniversary!

*If you are in the photos or know someone who is, the Editor would like to hear from you.
(Ed.)*

Ultreya on Understanding Cursillo

All cursillistas, old and new, are warmly invited to gather for the first Ultreya of the year.

- St Monica's Church meeting room (beside the church)
- Corner of Copland Drive and Moynihan Street
- Sat 28 Feb, starting 10am

The theme of the Ultreya will be "Understanding Cursillo", focusing on "the how and the why" of Cursillo.

A panel of long term cursillistas will present short talks on different aspects of the Cursillo Movement and a sharing and questions from the floor will follow. The speakers will be Alfred Bongi, Joe Jambor, Merran Martin and Joy Harmer. All those who have been on teams in the past are encouraged to come and share their experiences, for the benefit of newer cursillistas. Cursillo has a particular spirituality, which is based on Friendship. Let us come together in friendship to celebrate what we have gained in Cursillo and to understand more of what makes it so effective in people's lives.

Please bring a plate of food to share.



Ultreya!

Peace in Vietnam

The Vietnamese are hardy people, rising early and faithfully attending 5am daily Mass. They are also very communal, hospitable and eager to greet visitors. Vietnamese people love LED light displays and midday naps.

The Order of Mary Queen of Peace are sisters in the highland area of Vietnam, with some sisters here in Canberra. In total 700 sisters support 70 communities, particularly the poorer indigenous and "leppers".

We were privileged to be invited to visit the Queen of Peace sisters by Cursillista Sr Kim. The sisters enthusiastically opened their communities and demonstrated their lives of charitable work. In a developing country emerging from the grip of communism, their work shows God's love to encourage a growing Catholic population.

During our visit we experienced their life of daily prayer and Marian devotion. Our time with the sisters was valuable to allow them and their students to speak in English and come to know Australian culture.

Please pray for the people of Vietnam and, through the intersection of our Mother Mary, for the work of the Queen of Peace sisters and for vocations to their order. For more information, seek out Sr Kim and her sisters at Cursillo events and elsewhere.

De Colores!

Michael, Erica and Isaac de Raadt





Teach Me to Sleep

*Lighting flashing,
Water splashing,
How can you sleep?
Thunder roaring,
Torrents pouring,
Still not a peep.
Waves arising,
Agonizing,
Tossed to and fro.
Care uncaring,
Hope despairing,
Where shall I go?
Tempest raging,
Fear engaging,
Pond'ring the deep.
Jumping, sinking,
Calling, thinking:
Was I asleep?
Heart awaking,
Hope partaking,
At your command.
Waters rending,
Love extending
Your saving hand.
Demons hushing,
Stillness rushing
Across the sea.
Wind obeying
Jesus saying:
"Have faith in me."
Future sailing,
Courage failing,
In safety keep.
Storm winds gusting,
Mercy trusting,
Teach me to sleep.*

Fr. Timothy J. Draper

Links for your reflection

- [Fr. John's reflections for your spiritual nourishment](#)
- [Minute Meditations from Franciscan Media](#)

Kairos Outside for Women

Have you or has someone you know experienced having a loved one in prison? Kairos Outside provides support for female relatives or friends of a current or former inmate. We

are holding a weekend, with a safe and understanding environment, from 21st to 23rd August, 2026, and we are looking for eligible guests to attend.



Enquiries to Liz

If you would like to pray for the team and guests, while the weekend is on, please go to [this link](#).

Cursillo Weekend 2026

The Cursillo Movement in Canberra-Goulburn is holding:

- a Cursillo for Men and Women
- at St Clements Retreat Centre, Galong
- from Fri 17 to Sun 19 April 2026

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

Please promote the Cursillo Weekend to your friends.

Registration and more information...



Save the Dates

February

- Sat 28 Feb - Ultreya presented by past Lay Directors

March

- Sat 28 Mar - Ultreya presented by Gungahlin Men

April



- Fri 17 to Sun 19 Apr - Cursillo Weekend
- Sun 19 Apr - Closures

May

- Sat 2 May - Instructional Reunion
- Thu 14 May - TW&TE contributions due
- Sat 23 May - Ultreya presented by Belconnen Ladies

June

- Sat 27 Jun - Spirituality Day presented by Belconnen Roses

August

- Thu 13 Aug - TW&TE contributions due
- Sat 22 Aug - Ultreya presented by Belconnen Men

September

- Sat 19 Sep - Ultreya presented by Online Men

October

- Sat 24 to Sun 25 Oct - 60-Year Retreat

November 2026

- Thu 12 Nov - TW&TE contributions due
- Sat 28 Nov - 2026 Christmas Ultreya

Next TWatE

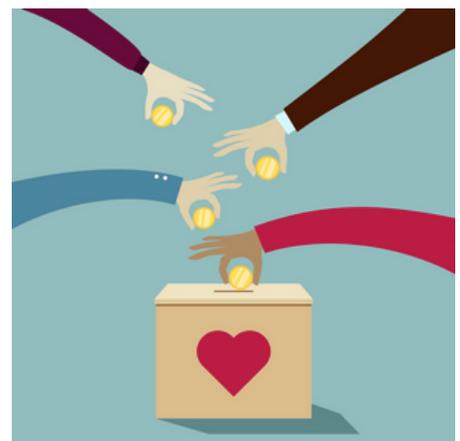
The next 'The Way and The Eagle' will be in May 2026. If you would like to contribute, please [email the editor](#) by Thu 14 May. Any contributions are appreciated, particularly stories about our 60 year history. It is always welcome and nice to hear from friends from afar.

Request for 2026 Donations

The Australian Catholic Cursillo Movement in the Canberra-Goulburn Archdiocese relies on your donation as its primary source of finance. This is mainly used to support Cursillo participants who cannot pay the full amount.

Costs at Galong are increasing. Meanwhile, cost-of-living pressures are meaning more candidates are requesting assistance, so your donation is needed more than ever.

Please consider making a donation of \$25. If you would like contribute more towards the subsidy of participants to attend



the Cursillo in April, it would be appreciated.

Methods of payment

1. Cheques payable to The Cursillo Movement posted to PO Box 28, Curtin ACT 2605
2. Electronic Funds Transfer to BSB: 062786, Acct: 000022730, Account Name: Cursillo Movement, Reference: your name.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Canberra-Goulburn Secretariat

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