

Secretariat 2023

LAY CO-ORDINATOR: Rod Lollback rodneylollback@hotmail.com

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR: Rev Rhonda Callander revcallander@gmail.com

SECRETARY: Sandra Bush sandrad.bush@hotmail.com

TREASURER: Ross Lehman rjlehman@bigpond.net.au

DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER:
Carol Anderson carolanderson51@bigpond.com

PALANCA CO-ORDINATOR/PRE-CURSILLO REGISTRAR:
Maria Gandey mariagandey45@gmail.com

COURIER EDITOR/WEB PAGE CO-ORDINATOR:
Megan Octigan meganoctgan@gmail.com

RESOURCES: Geoff Duffy gwduffy1@gmail.com

4TH DAY CO-ORDINATOR: Desley Ryan dryan999@bigpond.net.au

INTERCESSOR: Bill Cottam billcottam5@gmail.com

TABLE FELLOWSHIP



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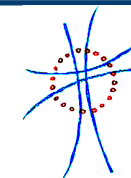
GROWING
in
grace



CURSILLO COURIER

Grafton Diocese Cursillo Movement

Autumn Edition 2023



A message from Bishop Murray



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

In the children's story *Circles of Hope*, a boy named Facile lives in Haiti. Facile has a new baby sister, Lucia, and he wants to give her a special gift. He is very poor so doesn't have much to give. Eventually he plants a mango seed so that it will grow into a mango tree - a special gift for little Lucia. But as soon as the seed is planted and begins to sprout, a goat eats it. He plants more seeds, but they are washed away by rain, or burnt out by fire. Then he thinks to build a protective wall of stones around the seed and because it is protected it grows into a strong tree.

Facile grew many more mango trees that covered the hillside. His country needed trees because many of the forests had been cut down for timber to build houses. From small beginnings, the gift of just one tree grew into a special gift for a whole community. Facile's gift for his sister was a gift of hope.

Life presents us with many challenges and trials. At first, we can be tempted to give up in the face of uncertainty and suffering. We might start over again but that new beginning might also be thwarted in some way. But in Christ and with his help and strength we can persevere and experience God's hope of a better future. In Christ we have the hope of glory.

+Murray

Bishop of Grafton Diocese

From our Spiritual Director

CHRIST IN YOU THE HOPE OF GLORY



Death and destruction seems to consume the news headlines. Floods, fires, famines, earthquakes, wars, rising inflation and food prices, staff shortages, more Covid. Such depressing news! We are bombarded with it and like the prophet Habakkuk we cry out, "How long Lord must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry to you "Violence!" and you will not save?" That's what our News Reader in our skit at the Diocesan Ultreya spoke about. Where is the justice? Where is the hope and peace, the 'good' news. Where is the love and compassion? And so she, like us, question. So many questions!

That's why Jesus entered the world- to save us and bring hope to a world crying out in pain at the injustices surrounding us all. **'Christ in you, the hope of glory'** is the good news. Christ in you! Jesus has given himself because without him we too would be plunged into despair. Our response, firstly, is to say thank you. Let's then spread that good news into our communities. In each new challenge or difficulty we encounter let us remember that Christ is in us, with us, walking beside us, holding our hand when we need it, cradling us in the palm of his hand at times.

The hope of glory is the hope we have as Christians both now and forevermore - a hope of salvation and eternal life, the hope of Jesus' presence with us whatever we face in this life. So whenever the cares of this world weigh you down, look up and remember that Christ is in you **and that's your hope of glory.** De Colores, Reverend Rhonda Callander

Matters Secretarial

A big thank you to **Ruth Morris** for being our dedicated Secretary for many years on the Secretariat. Ruth resigned and was de-commissioned at the Diocesan Ultreya. We will miss you Ruth .

We welcome **Sandra Bush** , taking over from Ruth as Secretary. Sandra is a member of the Anglican Church in Port Macquarie and was a candidate in 2016, W58, table Martha.



Reflections on the Diocesan Ultreya

by *Beverley Love, South West Rocks, Lower Macleay*

I would like to share my thoughts about the Ultreya we had on the 25th February.

It was truly an uplifting and enjoyable day. I had decided to attend because my spirit had been brought low recently by many things happening in my life and in the world around me.

I came with two special friends, hoping to be uplifted by the Holy Spirit, and I was not disappointed.

The Eucharist brought joy to my heart to start off the day. All the singing and the various talks were very moving and I could feel the Holy Spirit amongst us all.

So wonderful to be amongst so many like-minded Christians praising the Lord. But most of all, the Lord had placed me at a table with several people that I did not know, but God knew the connection.

Since arriving home, I have been able to reconnect with a very good friend of my mother-in-law (deceased), and the woman I met at Cursillo.

The Spirit of God is surely dancing in my path. Praise be to God,

De Colores, Beverley.



Diocesan Ultreya Grafton Cathedral 25th February 2023

What a great day! About 40 Cursillistas from all over our Grafton Diocese attended this one day event. The theme being “**Christ in you, the hope of Glory**”.

Bishop Murray lead the commissioning in the Grafton Cathedral after the eucharist. Desley Ryan was de-commissioned as Lay Co-ordinator, Barbara Swain as Fourth-Day Coordinator and Ruth Miller as Secretary in absentia. Desley was commissioned as the new Fourth-Day Co-ordinator.

Hunt Hall was the venue for the rest of the day’s activities. Sitting in table groups, there was a lot of singing and table discussion. A group reunion was held prior to lunch and we had a time of thoughtful reflection using our group reunion card topics.

After lunch **Susan Lollback** was our **witness speaker** and gave us thoughtful reflection into the difficult area of important personal decision making.

Melanie Dorian performed a great skit which promoted a lot of table group discussion.

The day finished with the exploration of our **Theme: “Christ in you, the hope of glory”**.

We were all able to get a better understanding of our theme. It was good to hear the different views at the table discussions which gave us all a better understanding

Remember your Table Community at Cursillo? What a great time it was. It could have been 30 years or last year, but we still remember.

De Colores, Graeme Booth



“A very big thank you to Desley Ryan who served Cursillo so well last year as Diocesan Lay Co-Ordinator. You truly worked hard to help us achieve all our goals. Your service to us was truly amazing and grace-filled.”

From your Diocesan Lay Co-ordinator



Hello fellow Cursillistas,

We have certainly started 2023 off well. The **Diocesan Ultreya** in Grafton on the 25th of February was a great success. The theme was ‘**Christ in you, the hope of Glory**’. From the opening Eucharist, presided by the Bishop, through the singing and Group Reunions to the witness talk and the skit, God’s presence could be felt the whole day.

We have no **3-day Cursillo weekend** this year but we still have plenty of things for us all to get involved with. ‘**Show your colours day**’ is the 7th of May, so wear your rainbow gear to church that day.

Our **Fire Days** this year are the 17th of June at Nambucca Heads and the 15th of July in Ballina. Try and get along, they promise to be a joyous occasion.

Then in October on 14th – 15th we will again be running **Regener8** in Grafton.

I encourage you all to come to as many of these events as you are able. Share in the love and fellowship of fellow Cursillistas as we praise our God and Saviour and bathe in His Grace and Love.

Live your 4th days fully, join a **Group Reunion**, organise a **Parish Ultreya**.

Let’s love our God and each other.

De Colores, Rodney Lollback.

Rodney is pictured here with his wife Susan who gave the Witness Talk at the Diocesan Ultreya on 25th February.



2022 Report from out-going Diocesan Lay Co-ordinator



The Secretariat had a full program for Cursillo in 2022. We started with a **Zoom Ultreya** held in Lismore on 12th February, a first for our Diocese. It was a great success with many joining us via Zoom and in person in Lismore. A big thank you to Rev Christian Ford for his help in putting this event together.

A **Fire Day** was held in the **South** at Nambucca Heads on 7th May. Several members of Secretariat travelled down from the north. We were pleased to see Gail attend as she was a candidate at our Cursillo Weekend in June.

On 28th May we had our **Fire Day** in the **North** at Lismore. A great roll up and a day filled with friendship and love. A big thank you to Carol Vidal for the music. Carol Anderson and her team put on a beautiful lunch which was enjoyed by all.

The month of June was a special time for Cursillo in our Diocese. Secretariat took a "step in faith" to hold a joint **Men's/Women's Cursillo** at the Nuralamee Centre. The weekend was led by Lay Directors Ann Helmrich and Geoff Duffy. We could feel the Holy Spirit working in and among us with love and friendship. We only charged \$100 per person to attend the weekend, which drained our resources. It has been decided to hold one Cursillo Weekend event every two years.

The **Follow-Up Day** was held on 2nd July at St Matthew's, South Grafton. Quite a few of the new candidates attended, some with their sponsors which was great to see.

Our last function for the year was **Regener8** held at the Cathedral Centre over 22nd & 23rd October. Our theme was "Grace". We enjoyed Rev Graham Hodgkinson's portrayal of Simon Peter throughout the weekend which lead us into table discussions and activities. The success of **Regener8** was a tribute to the many Cursillistas who attended from all reaches of our Diocese.

I have enjoyed my year as your **Diocesan Lay Co-ordinator** and thank each one of you for your prayers and friendship over the past 12 months. I know Cursillo is going to be in good hands for 2023 with Rodney at the helm. Please keep him in your prayers during the year.

De Colores, Desley Ryan.

Financial Report by Ross Lehmann, Treasurer

'Birthday Money' and financial giving towards our Grafton Diocesan Cursillo activities

Secretariat is renewing the yearly 'birthday money' contribution which seems to have gone into recess, particularly since COVID. We thought **'Show your Colours Day'** Sunday, May 7, 2023, would be an appropriate time to remember this voluntary way of giving. It is suggested that \$10 per person be given annually. This will boost our financial funds especially to help new candidates and team members attend our Cursillo weekends.

There are three ways to give:

1. **A voluntary cash contribution** via your Parish Care Person can be made on this day, or whenever convenient for you.
2. **Make a Direct Deposit** via the internet:
ACCOUNT NAME: Anglican Cursillo Secretariat
BSB: 705077
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 30042
REFERENCE: Your Surname – BGift
3. **A cheque** made out to: **Anglican Cursillo Secretariat**, posted to:
Dr Ross Lehman [Treasurer], [3 Homestead Avenue, Goonellabah, NSW, 2480](#). M: 0407 272 414 E: rjlehman@bigpond.net.au

**Thanks, in anticipation,
Ross.**

**Secretariat member, Barbara Swain, was de-commissioned at the Diocesan Ultreya on Saturday.
Thank you for your great support on Secretariat as 4th-day Coordinator, Barbara.**

