

## CURSILLO FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Donations to Cursillo are needed for the 2024 program. These can be made directly into the Cursillo Bank account .

### To make a Direct Deposit:

**ACCOUNT NAME:** Anglican Cursillo Secretariat

**BSB:** 705077

**ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 30042

**REFERENCE:** Your Surname + gift

Thank you, Ross Lehman, Treasurer

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**M: 0407 272 414**

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## SHOW YOUR COLOURS DAY

**Sunday June 9**

**Please wear your rainbow colours to church**

### Our National Cursillo Prayer:

Gracious God, we thank you for all the colours of your love.

We hold before you our Cursillo community and ask for your continuing love and guidance.

Through **Piety** may we feel your presence,

Through **Study** may we gain new insights,

Through **Apostolic Action** may we

share your love with others,

In the name of your Son and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen**



### Acknowledgements:

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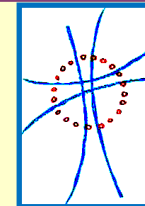
## CURSILLO COURIER

**Grafton Diocese Cursillo Movement**

**Autumn Edition 2024**

## CELEBRATING FORTY YEARS

**Looking Forward, Looking Back**



As a young adult I used to help lead High Ropes adventures for teenagers. This involved the participants being secured in a harness and then climbing up in the trees and being suspended on high tension cables and ropes strung between the trees and platforms as they safely made their way around a set adventure course. This was a great way for young people to have fun while growing in self confidence and facing their fears. Sometimes however participants would be so frozen by fear that they couldn't move forward or back on the course and would have to be rescued.

This story came to mind as I thought of the Cursillo theme for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: **looking forward and looking back**. Sometimes we're uncomfortable about looking back. There are things from the past we'd rather forget. Lot's wife was turned into a pillar of salt for disobeying the angel's command by looking back. But looking forward can be scary as well, especially when we look around at all the challenges of our world.

Yet the scriptures are constantly looking both forward and back in order to help us understand God's work in the world. In 1 Samuel, David draws strength for his encounter with the much stronger Philistine Warrior by recalling how courageous he was in the past.

Psalms 105 also looks both forward and back. In Verse 4 the psalmist seeks God's face *continually* – The Hebrew *tamid* can also be translated "forevermore". Hence the KJV ... *seek his face forevermore*. But in the very next verse, the psalmist calls us to "remember the marvels God has done". A constant looking forward, yet looking back.

May Psalm 105 be our guide then: *Let's seek God's face now and in the future, and remember the marvels he has done in the past*. As Archbishop Francois Fenelon once wrote, we should let gratitude for the past inspire us with trust for the present.

**+Murray Harvey**

[From our Diocesan Spiritual Director, Rev Rhonda Callander](#)

It's good to glance back occasionally and see how far we've come in our Christian walk. That's what we did when Cursillistas gathered together in Grafton for our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. Whether our Cursillos were a l-o-n-g time ago or more recently, we recalled the people we had made friends with diocesan wide, the talks, the theme and the one or two songs we may have sung.

Reminisce, look back at how simply attending a Cursillo weekend has changed our lives. For so many, Cursillo was a life-changing experience but I do acknowledge that for some it was a struggle. What do you remember of your Cursillo weekend? Did you reflect on your experience, trying to make sense of everything that was said and done and who you were now? What were your highlights? What didn't you like? Where was God? In what ways did you use your Cursillo experience to step out and up for God? God has always called his people to take time to slow down, to pause and ponder the past before moving into the future.

Looking forward! What does the future hold for Cursillo? For so long we have focussed on getting people to attend a Cursillo weekend. Whilst that is still important I believe the focus now needs to shift. How can we provide opportunities for the Holy Spirit to regenerate people, to fire us up to go back into our parishes with renewed energy- and not just

those who have already attended Cursillo but anyone who attends a Regener8, a Fire Day or a Diocesan Ultreya? That's right, they're open to the wider Christian community! So let's invite others in our parish to a Cursillo activity.

**De Colores, Rev. Rhonda**

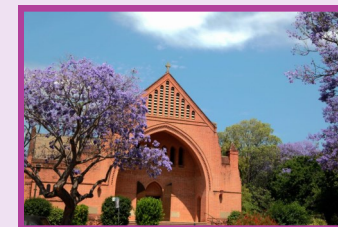


# Cursillo Weekend

**5th—7th October 2024**

*Make your Cursillo this year,  
in October, from 5th—7th.*

*It will be held at Grafton Cathedral*



**Sponsor  
a friend!**

*Enjoy the beauty of the  
Cathedral.*

*Two and a half days of  
worship, fellowship, learning,  
and fun.*

***This Weekend is for Men and Women***

For information please contact our  
Diocesan Lay Co-ordinators.

**Fran Legge:** [kiwituppence@gmail.com](mailto:kiwituppence@gmail.com) or

**Rod Lollback:** [rodneylollback@hotmail.com](mailto:rodneylollback@hotmail.com)



# FIRE DAY

Grafton Cursillo Movement

Theme: "Letting Go"



All welcome

Southern Region:

**St John's, Coffs Harbour**

2 McLean St,  
Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 9.30 am – 3pm

Northern Region:

**St Cuthbert's, Tweed Heads**

Cnr Powell & Florence Sts,  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 9.30 am – 3pm

**Cost: \$10 for lunch**

For more information contact our Lay-Coordinators:

Fran Legge: [kiwituppence@gmail.com](mailto:kiwituppence@gmail.com) or

Rod Lollback: [rodneylollback@hotmail.com](mailto:rodneylollback@hotmail.com)

## From our Diocesan Lay Co-Ordinator, Fran Legge

Our Diocesan Ultreya, held on March 2nd, commenced with a Eucharist presided over by Bishop Murray and Rev Rhonda Callander, our Spiritual Director. The service was spiritually uplifting and we had a great attendance which was wonderful for our 40th Birthday celebrations. Morning tea followed the Eucharist and was its usual scrumptious standard. Our heartfelt thanks go to Wendy Duffy and Susan Lollback for their catering.



There was both positive and negative feedback on the day. We humbly accept the positive, and will do our best to strive for reasonable outcomes on the negative.

Using the St John Edwards Hall was a huge bonus with the air-conditioning and we had excellent speakers from Men's and Women's first Grafton Diocesan Weekends. We thank Rev George Markotsis, Dr Ross Lehman, and Terry & Gae Shorten for their attendances at our celebration. It was interesting to hear their experiences of forty years ago, right at the beginning of Cursillo in the Grafton Diocese.

Congratulations to all Secretariat members for their valuable input and help on the day, and special gratitude to Rev Rhonda Callander for her superlative skills with organising the program.

We look forward to our **South and North Fire Days, Show Your Colours Day**, and the **October Cursillo Weekend**. Dates will be sent via email posters, and this Courier.

One thing raised at the Ultreya was the lack of local and regional **Ultreyas**. This is also a concern of mine and I hope we can find ways of rejuvenating these activities so that Cursillistas can reconnect socially face to face. **Care people** are needed in several parishes, and I encourage you to pray about this leadership. We will help as much as possible.

**De Colores, Fran Legge**

## MEMORIES

On Saturday March 2nd, Cursillistas met at the Grafton Cathedral for a special Ultreya to celebrate 40 years of Cursillo in this Diocese.

Some came to share with us what it was like to make their Cursillo 40 years ago in 1983. **Rev George Markotsis** from Men's 1 recounted his memories of an amazing weekend. The vibrant experience of participating in Cursillo changed George's life and he felt called by God to become a candidate for the priesthood. George continued to find God working in his life through his commitment to the 4th Day.

**Ross Lehmann, and Terry and Gae Shorten** shared with us their reminiscences. Through the encouragement they received on their Cursillo journey, they were revitalised to serve God in their parishes through a renewed commitment to lay leadership.

**Rev Don Turnbull** experienced the loving presence of God, and the joy of sharing with others and being united with them in communion. "What Jesus has done for us" and "seeing Jesus face-to-face" were spiritual remembrances that touched our hearts.

**Rev Aaron Coates** also gave a moving talk about his experiences at his Cursillo which was the most recent, **M & W 62** in 2022. We were touched by Aaron's openness to meet God on a retreat which was led by Laity. Thank you Aaron for your inspiring words.



**Revs Don Turnbull and Aaron Coates cut the Birthday Cake. Don was at the first and Aaron was at the last Cursillo.**

## Cursillo Secretariat 2024

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I went on to lead Bible Studies, and took up a job at the office of St John's Anglican church in Coffs Harbour, eventually becoming Diocesan President of Mother's Union, and a Licensed Lay Minister at St John's.

Both Terry and Gae noticed how people had Anglican friends all over the Diocese, and visited and worshipped in each other's churches. There was a newfound optimism and vibrancy, and passion for faith. People learnt how important it was to encourage one another. *(To be continued..)*



## THE EARLY DAYS OF CURSILLO IN GRAFTON DIOCESE

By Terry and Gae Shorten

**Terry:** I made my Cursillo at Men's 2 in 1983 in Grafton Diocese under the auspices of the then Bishop, Donald Shearman. Cursillistas from the Diocese of Canberra/Goulburn came up to lend their guidance, energy and enthusiasm. Mrs Frankie Gatenby and I were the first Lay-Co-ordinators for the Diocese, serving from Sept'83 until the end of '85. During those 2 years an incredible 15 Cursillos were held. By that time over 500 men and women had made their Cursillo in our Diocese.

As well as managing these fifteen Cursillos, teams from Grafton Diocese led the first Cursillos in Brisbane, with 4 being held in 1985 in spite of the lack of episcopal support.

Two years later, in 1987, the Diocese again took Cursillo to neighbouring Armidale Diocese with great support from the bishop there. I had the privilege of being Lay Director of Men's 1, both in Armidale and Brisbane.

It was Bishop Donald Shearman of Grafton Diocese who gave the fledging Cursillo movement support and energy in the early months.

**Gae:** I attended Women's 1 in 1983. It was Cursillo that equipped me for my journey as a Christian for the rest of my life. I had the privilege of being on team several times, including being on Women's 1 when a team from this Diocese went to Brisbane and Newcastle to inaugurate the Cursillo movement. Cursillo helped me gain an insight into how a person can grow in Christ when you step out in faith. Adapting to "strange" places brought me a new self-confidence and openness to future tasks God had for me.

*Continued on page 9.*



From left: Rev George Markotsis, Ross Lehman, and Gae & Terry Shorten shared their reminiscences.



Julie Pine giving her Witness Talk

Julie Pine offered us a poignant **Witness Talk** about a personal memory of walking in the steps of her mother who made her Cursillo some time before Julie, but who has since died. Now Julie proudly displays her mother's name tag and her own hanging together, and united in Jesus.





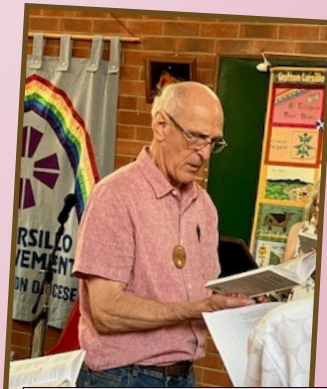
We are all interconnected ...



Rev Rhonda & Ann Helmrich



Brian and Anne Pade

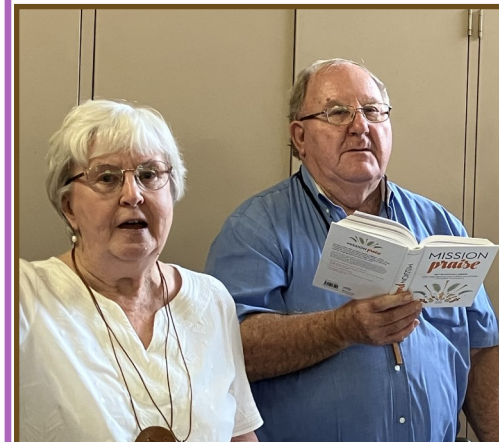


Rev Graeme Hodgkinson



Gail Griffiths and Ruth Morris

40th  
Birthday  
Ultreya



Gae and Terry Shorten



Happy Fortieth