

# ANGLICAN CURSILLO

Diocese of Christchurch, N.Z.



## **Lay Director report to Synod – May 2023**

To: Christchurch Diocese Synod 2023

From: Mike Morley-Bunker

Date:

Title Annual Report to 2023 Christchurch Diocese Synod from  
Diocesan Cursillo movement

---

The Christchurch Diocesan Cursillo movement has been challenged over the period 2022–2023. There has been an overhang from Covid-19 itself and from the measure that were taken to try and keep everyone safe from preventable infection.

A Cursillo “short course” weekend was planned for the period under report. A team was formed with the leaders Glenda and David Prosser in charge. Training sessions were undertaken with the aim of introducing new people to the inspiration that a Cursillo weekend can provide. Sadly, there were not enough applications for a planned weekend in October so there was a postponement. A second attempt was made to hold a weekend in May 2023. Again, David and Glenda worked on forming and training a team to conduct the weekend. Although there were a few more enquiries about the weekend there still were not enough applications to attend. Consequently, the May weekend was cancelled rather than postponed. The “number” C23 has now been retired. When the next attempt to hold a Cursillo weekend takes place it will be labelled C24.

Cursillistas are encouraged to continue their journey in faith after attending a Cursillo weekend. They are encouraged to attend what are known as 4<sup>th</sup> day groups. These are typically small groups of committed believers who meet regularly to pray and share experiences and support each other. They share their lives in Christ. Some groups meet monthly and some even more frequently. Details about how to contact these groups, where they meet and how frequently can be found on the Cursillo webpages.

A Cursillo weekend is not expected to be “once experience”. People who have been on a Cursillo weekend can come together for what are known as Ultreya. An Advent Ultreya was held on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, at St Augustine’s, Cashmere. It was preceded by a brainstorming exercise aimed at thinking about new directions for Cursillo. The 2022 December Ultreya included a series of short drama pieces (which might be of interest to parishes for 2023). In 2023, on March 18<sup>th</sup> at St David’s Belfast an Ultreya included a witness talk about perseverance given by John Preece (with some comments from Rev Elspeth Wingham). At the time of writing further Ultreya’s are planned for June 17<sup>th</sup>, October 17<sup>th</sup>, and Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. Unfortunately, the numbers of Cursillistas attending an Ultreya has dropped rather dramatically. Whereas the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary Advent Ultreya held in 2021 at Lincoln had 50 people (we counted because of the Covid-19 advice we were following) the Advent Ultreya for 2022 had no more than 20 people and the Ultreya in March 2023 only 12 people.

Taking the evidence of what has been happening to participation in Cursillo activities in recent time the Secretariat has been encouraging Cursillistas to introduce potential weekend pilgrims to attend 4<sup>th</sup> day groups and Ultreya’s before attending a Cursillo weekend. Over the years it has been suggested that, from the outside, Cursillo has looked a bit like a private and exclusive group. That is not the image that we want to project. We want to encourage new people to come and deepen their faith and commitment to Christ through experiencing Cursillo. To that end we are also exploring a new format for a Cursillo weekend—one that is shorter in terms of the weekend time commitment. We are also looking at different venues—venues that can provide accommodation that helps pilgrims enter into the excitement of drawing closer to Christ.

I wish to thank those Cursillistas who have helped with the activities and organization over the last 12 months. That includes the current members of the Secretariat but does not exclude other people who have helped as well. There have been some health issues for some members of the Secretariat. I will mention, in particular, Rev Don Pilgrim our Diocesan Spiritual Director. I am hopeful by the time this Synod report is published that all those people currently experiencing ill health have made good progress in either recovering or in addressing the health challenges that they now have to face.

Des Colores