

# ANGLICAN CURSILLO

Diocese of Christchurch, N.Z.



## Anglican Cursillo

The Christchurch Diocesan Cursillo movement has continued to be challenged for the period 2024–2025. The challenge has been for the Christchurch Diocese to set up and run a weekend course to bring new pilgrims into the Cursillo movement. There were not enough indications of interest for a weekend course scheduled for end of 2023/start of 2024. That led to a renewed realization that our message and our efforts to seek new pilgrims had to be refocused in a way that would appeal to seekers of a relationship with God.

While the discussions about “where we are at and how we can attract” were taking place existing Cursillistas were invited to Ultreya meetings during 2024. These took place in May, July, September and December in different places across the Diocese.

In the second half of 2024 the Secretariat decided to go from talking to planning a different format for a pilgrim weekend. One of the first decisions was to consciously change the language—to downplay the Spanish language names and go “kiwi”. The second decision was to re-work the program of talks. They were shortened. Sometimes two talks were combined. The emphasis was on discussing and appreciating the themes in each talk.

The program that emerged could be described in this way.

Day 1. what is fundamental about being a Christian—JOURNEY  
HOPEFULLY

Day2. how to live in the world as a Christian so that the world can be  
made aware of Christ’s presence—JOURNEYING INTO THE WORLD

People familiar with the Cursillo program will immediately appreciate the weekend course in Christian living has slimmed down into a 2-day program instead of a 3-day programme.

With prayer, commitment and, I think, God's assistance, a team worked on the new format course. The course was advertised as "A weekend course in Christian living". Some of the Wellington Cursillo members came down to observe how the program and pilgrims progressed. The Friday evening (21<sup>st</sup> March) saw the gathering of the team and the welcoming of the "pilgrims". The programme then carried on for Saturday and Sunday (22<sup>nd</sup> March–23<sup>rd</sup> March).

One of the blessings for the team that began work on the new programme was the availability of the facility at Cracroft at the foot of the Cashmere Hills. It was a return to a facility that had become unavailable after the Christchurch earthquakes.

Thanks have to go to the Secretariat for Christchurch Diocese Cursillo movement and the many Cursillista's who heard the call and served to make the weekend a Christian experience. I haven't named any of them here (it would be a long list). I hope they know that their contribution allowed a revival for the Cursillo movement in the Christchurch Diocese.

I want to add my personal thanks to all the people involved because I began to experience significant health challenges in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2024. I was even missing for the March 2025 weekend because I was in hospital that very weekend. The Secretariat and the team pushed forward with great determination while I was absent. That included the meetings and the Ultreya gatherings. I am going to name two people who, in particular, shouldered my responsibilities—Don Pilgrim (Spiritual Director) and Heather Driesen. Heather Driesen has now assumed the responsibility of being Lay Director. I wish them well.