

ANGLICAN CURSILLO

Diocese of Christchurch, N.Z.



Lay Director report to Synod – April 2022

To: Christchurch Diocese Synod 2022
From: Mike Morley-Bunker
Date:
Title Annual Report to 2022 Christchurch Diocese Synod from Diocesan Cursillo movement

The Spanish word Cursillo translates as “a short course”. In the case of the Christchurch Diocese, Anglican Cursillo means a short course in Christian living **AND** much more. In the past year the Covid-19 environment has made it impossible to hold a weekend short course in Christian living. As a consequence we have tried to be resourceful. We have tried other formats to get alongside people in the Diocese so that we can help them understand that the Cursillo movement intentionally hopes to deepen each person’s commitment to a Christ centered life.

The genesis of the Cursillo movement is rooted in a group of believers who wished to walk the Camino de Santiago in Spain. It wasn’t possible because the Spanish Civil War was ongoing. As a result the founding “pilgrims” looked for another means to inspire and deepen their faith. The Cursillo “weekend short course” was developed to bring believers closer to God as well as inspire a commitment to serve in whatever way was appropriate to each person.

Cursillistas (people who have been on a Cursillo) are encouraged to keep alive the inspiration and the transformation that they find on their Cursillo weekend short course. One way that they can do this by attending what are termed 4th day groups – small groups of committed believers who meet regularly. You could imagine fourth day groups behaving a little like support groups. Fourth day groups pray together, sing together, and talk to each other. They share their lives in Christ. They encourage each other in a continuing journey of faith. There are 13 groups currently meeting in the Christchurch Diocese – some meet monthly and some even more frequently than this. Fourth day groups can invite people who have not been on a Cursillo weekend to join with them when they meet. The liaison person for the 4th days groups is Heather Driesen, but if you wish to get in touch with a 4th day group please initially direct your enquiries to me.

Another way that Cursillistas are encouraged to maintain the comradeship and the fellowship that they first encounter on their pilgrimage weekend is to attend what are termed Ultreya's. Several were arranged in the last 12 months. After one false start (Covid) an Ultreya was held in Amberley. The tradition of having an Ultreya at the start of Advent was upheld and this particular Ultreya was of special significance – marking 25 years that Cursillo has been in the Christchurch Diocese. Finally there was an Ultreya in February 2022 in Belfast where the team for the next Cursillo weekend was commissioned by Bishop Peter.

In an effort to create interest in the Diocese the Secretariat organized and conducted two Cursillo worship introductions. The first part of the Eucharist service is conducted by Cursillista's and the parish clergy then conduct the communion part of the service. One of the goals of this exercise is for the congregation to appreciate how laity can deepen their worship and their commitment to their faith. This is one of the goals of the Cursillo movement.

In 2021 there were several attempts to train a team for a Cursillo weekend. At first the leader for the next Cursillo weekend, Combined 23 was John Preece. However, illness caused John to withdraw and Glenda and David Prosser very nobly came forward to continue, jointly, to put together a team and conduct the training sessions. There have been several attempts to schedule a Cursillo weekend – first in September 2021 and then again in March 2022. The current booking is for October 27th - 30th in 2022. We pray that God will find a time and interest for staging another Cursillo weekend in the near future.

In summary the last 12 months have been challenging for the Cursillo movement. The movement has tried to be agile. It has tried to take advantage of the windows of opportunity to meet, to support each other and to contribute to the faith we aim to uphold.

Des Colores