

## Christchurch Diocese Anglican Cursillo report to Synod 2021

The Spanish word Cursillo translates as “a short course”. In the case of the Christchurch Diocese Anglican Cursillo it means a short course in Christian living **AND** much more. There is a story about the genesis of Cursillo links to the movement founders who wanted to walk the Camino de Santiago. That is why people on the short course weekend are called pilgrims.

When pilgrims leave their weekend Cursillo, they are invited to seek their path leading to living a life of faith. Cursillistas (people who have been on a Cursillo) are encouraged to keep alive the inspiration and the transformation that they find on their Cursillo. They can do this by attending what are termed 4<sup>th</sup> day groups – small groups of committed believers who meet regularly. 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.

In addition to 4th day groups there are larger meetings of Cursillistas. In our Diocese there are typically four of these meeting in a year. These meetings are called Ultreyas. Although Spanish this word has its roots in Latin. Ultreya could be roughly translated as “Onwards and upwards”. An Ultreya meeting allows Cursillistas to reconnect with friends from Cursillo, to worship together, sing together and to inspire each other.

Our Christchurch Diocese Cursillo movement has many partners. Cursillo is active in 5 Dioceses in New Zealand. The Cursillo movement, which began in the Roman Catholic church in Spain, has spread throughout the world and also between Christian denominations. In other church denominations it may have a different title. As a sign of how developed the Cursillo movement is you can find a Wikipedia page that explains and describes the Cursillo movement – including all the derivatives found around the world. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cursillo>

The above was written so that those people reading this report to Synod will gain some understanding about the movement. However I think it probable that a great many reading this report will already know about Cursillo and may have been on Cursillo. What remains is for me to report what has taken place over the last 12 months.

There is a previous report, written for the 2013 Synod, that says that there had been no Cursillo weekend for the period under report. That was because of the Christchurch earthquakes. Covid-19 has led to the same outcome. There has not been a Cursillo weekend in the last 12 months. Not that some planning and training did not take place. Cursillo 23 tried very hard to get up and going. However, lockdowns, social distancing and alert level changes meant that holding a Cursillo weekend was neither practical or feasible. The plan is now to target a weekend in March next year (March 17 – March 20, 2022).

Some Ultreya meetings have taken place. The Ultreya in Rangiora in September took place while the alert level was set at 2. Social distancing for this Ultreya was challenging. We still managed to pass on a special thank you to Glenda and David Prosser. They have served both in the Christchurch Cursillo and were also joint National Lay directors until recently. Stephanie Johnston was thanked for her term as Christchurch Lay director. I (Mike Morley-Bunker) was inducted to follow in her footsteps. Jan Brodie gave a witness talk drawing on her experiences as a chaplain. The Advent Ultreya was held while the Alert level was set at level 1. A much easier situation. The Secretariat put together a rather different programme from normal. It went well, was festive, and the singing was vigorous. Then the Ultreya set for March 2021 ran into a Alert level changes so it was postponed until the Covid-19 levels changed down again. More Ultreyas are planned for August (Mid Canterbury) October and December (Christchurch)

The Secretariat has met regularly – sometimes by zoom during Covid restrictions. This year they have worked on developing a Cursillo service to take to different parishes – so that congregations can get a better understanding of what Cursillo is and what it promotes – commitment to the journey with Christ day by day. The first was held at Methven in April and was well received. We intend holding more. The next is scheduled for Kaiapoi in July and later in the year at Lincoln.

To conclude the report thanks need to be offered for Rev Don Pilgrim and Rev Lynette Lightfoot. Lynette was a wonderful Spiritual Director and I am sure Rev Don Pilgrim will be too. Thanks also go to the members of the Secretariat who have worked, at times under difficult circumstances, at promoting Cursillo so that there may be more pilgrims in the years to come.