

# RAINBOW CONNECTION

Anglican Cursillo Tasmania

February 2021

## **A Reflection from the Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Lee Weissel**

### **Mark 9:33-37**

They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.” He took a little child whom he placed among them. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.”

As we prepare to enter Lent for 2021, it is good to take stock of our journey with Jesus. Cursillo is a movement called to serve the church of God.

In the passage, Jesus asks his disciples an apparently indiscreet question, ‘What were you discussing on the way?’. It is a question he could ask each of us today: ‘What do you talk about everyday? What are your aspirations?’ The Gospel tells us that the disciples did not answer because on the way they had been arguing who was the most important. They were ashamed to tell Jesus what they were talking about. Like the disciples then, today we too can get in the same arguments: who is the most important?

Jesus does not press the question. He does not force them to tell him what they were talking about on the way. But the question lingers, not only in the minds of the disciples but also in their hearts.

Who is the most important? Jesus is straightforward in his reply: “Whoever wishes to be first – the most important – among you must be the last of all, and the servant of all”. Whoever wishes to be great must serve others, not be served by others.

This is the great paradox of Jesus. The disciples were arguing about who would have the highest place, who would be chosen for privileges – they were the disciples that were closest to Jesus, and they were arguing about that! Who would be above the common law, the general norm, in order to stand out in the quest for superiority over others. Who would climb the ladder the most quickly to take the jobs that would carry certain benefits? Jesus upsets their logic, their mind set, simply by telling them that life is lived authentically in a concrete commitment to our neighbor. That is, by serving.

The call to serve involves something special, to which we must be attentive. Serving means caring for the vulnerable. Caring for the vulnerable of our families, our society, our people. Theirs are the suffering, fragile and downcast faces which Jesus tells us specifically to look at and which he asks us to love. With a love which takes shape in our actions and our decisions. With a love which finds expression in whatever tasks we are called to perform.

It is a people of flesh and blood, people with individual lives and stories, and with all their frailty, that Jesus asks us to protect and care for, and to serve. Being Christian entails promoting the dignity of our brothers and sisters, fighting for it, living for it. That is why Christians are constantly called to set aside their own wishes and desires, their pursuit of power, before the concrete gaze of those who are most vulnerable. All of us are called by virtue of our Christian vocation to that service which truly serves and to help one another. All of us are asked, indeed urged by Jesus to care for one another out of love. Without looking to one side or the other to see what our neighbor is doing or not doing. Jesus says, “Whoever would be first among you must be last, and the servant of all.” That person will be first. Jesus does not say: if your neighbor wants to be first, let him be your servant! We have to be watchful to avoid judgmental looks and renew our belief in the transforming look that Jesus invites us.

This caring for others out of love is not about being servile. Rather it means putting the question to our brothers and sisters at the center. Service always looks to their faces, senses their closeness, and even, in some cases ‘suffers’ that closeness, and tries to help. Service is never ideological, for we do not serve ideas, we serve people.

De Colores

### A Message from Ruth Thomas, our DLD

Romans 15:13 "May the God of Hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit". NRSV The theme of the 53<sup>rd</sup> annual community floral festival 'Blooming Church' February 6-8 was "Seeds of Hope". A theme that sits well with our Cursillo concept of "Blooming where we are planted". Thank you to our Diocesan Spiritual Director, the Rev'd Lee Weisell who suggested Cursillo participate in the festival. Thank you to Susan Foster and Leone Paget who arranged the donated garden flowers beautifully and to Margie Headlam who provided the Cursillo information leaflets and several colourful items that added so wonderfully to the display.

In January both Glenn Hare (M24) and Helen Wills (W19) died. Glenn was on Team for M25 and M27. Helen was on Team for W22 and W24. They are both remembered with deep affection and gratitude for their contribution to Cursillo Tasmania. 2021 is starting with a series of Regional Ultreyas. The NW Ultreya is on 20<sup>th</sup> February at Burnie with Joan Harvey as the Witness Speaker. March 13<sup>th</sup> we'll have a Southern Ultreya with the Rev'd Lesley Borowitzka as the Witness Speaker at St Mark's Cygnet. Planning is underway for a Northern Ultreya. There are high hopes that a Diocesan Ultreya AND MW34 may occur as well this year. May we all continue to hold firmly to the hope we have in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
Ultreya



The Cursillo floral display for 'Blooming Church'.



Thank you to Ruth for making these beautiful little packets (without seeds). They added a special blessing to the display.

### Update on Mez Thomas (W20A) NHS nurse London

Thank you to the Cursillistas who remember my daughter Mary (Mez), who was on Team for W23 in 2009, and have been praying for her. David and I spoke with her on the phone on Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Feb. Mary has just completed her second deployment in Critical Care nursing for covid patients, and has been called back to work at her usual job at a Neurology Clinic by her Head of Nursing as the Clinic is short staffed and needs her. The NHS seems to be genuinely striving to maximise the greatest good that their staff can provide to their patients. Sometimes it seems the staff are moved around at minimal notice. Mary was in good spirits and had felt strongly affirmed in her work at Critical Care, knowing she was in the right place at that time. We are very grateful for God's timing and provision. Mary had received the vaccination before returning to work with the covid patients and her most recent online professional development training had pertinent information that stood her in good stead when facing the challenges of working with those affected by this deadly disease. Due to the latest lockdown her active pursuit of her call to Ministry has been postponed. However, we know that God uses all our experiences for His glory. NRSV Romans 8:28 "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to his purpose".

You are invited to a Southern Regional Ultreya  
at St Mark's, George St, CYGNET

On Saturday 13th March 2021

2 pm - 4 pm

Theme:- "God is love"

Witness Speaker:- Rev. Dr Lesley Borowitzka



Please note - Due to COVID restrictions we will not have a shared lunch.  
Takeaway coffee shops and cafes close by for travellers who wish to eat lunch beforehand.