

RAINBOW CONNECTION

Anglican Cursillo Tasmania

April 2021

A Reflection from the Diocesan Spiritual Advisor, Lee Weissel

The passage which appears in John 13, tells of Jesus washing the feet of the Apostles on the evening of his last supper with them. It is a well known story, but its importance can be easily missed. It is the Apostle Peter who gives us a clue to the gravity of the event. If you recall, they are about to recline at the table, and there is no one to wash the feet of these travelers. A custom in this part of the ancient world, it enabled them to feel clean, and relax. Due to fact it was the feet, it was often the role of the less important people - slaves, children and the like. But this time they are absent.

Jesus, aware of the awkwardness, removes his outer robe and begins to wash the apostles' feet. Jesus comes to Peter, who refuses to have his feet washed. There is discussion between Jesus and Peter, and in the end Peter relents. For Peter, having Jesus, the most important person in the room, wash feet, is a total reversal of what normally happens. Peter's refusal cuts right to the heart of his worldview. Peter's world is being changed and he doesn't like it. He is desperate to hang on to what he knows, and doesn't want people messing around with this. Yet Jesus persists, telling Peter he may not understand yet but that he would eventually. Jesus opens up a new order in the world that he will accomplish with his death and resurrection at Easter.

Jesus has set before us an example of love. He has washed away the old ways of domination and hierarchy. He has replaced those with communion and love. There are no feet excluded from love. There are no feet unworthy of being washed. Even Judas's feet were washed. For us as followers of our Lord, we need to remember the love our Lord poured into us, especially at the cross. We remember so we can pour it into the lives of others.

May you each know how greatly you are loved every Easter.

De Colores.

Hong Kong #3-June 11-14

Team - John (Lay Director), Nancy (Proctor), Alison, Evelyn, Maddy, Ambrose, and Ivy, Robert and Will (both spiritual advisers)

Candidates - Bishop Matthias, Diana, John and Rebecca, Caius, Angel, Olivia, Sharon, Fanny, Tiffany, Amos, Venus, Polly, Elisa and Phoebe.

Please encourage our Hong Kong brothers and sisters with your prayers and palanca.

Post palanca to: Father Will Newman, Cursillo Hong Kong, St Johns the Evangelist Cathedral, 4-8 Garden Rd, Central, Hong Kong.

The logo for Cursillo, featuring the word "Cursillo" in a stylized, cursive font. The letters are multi-colored, with "Cur" in orange, "sill" in green, and "o" in purple.

A Message from Ruth Thomas, our DLD

The N.W. Ultreya held on February 20th at Burnie had the theme “We dwell in Him and He in us”, the S. Ultreya held on March 13th at Cygnet had “God is Love” and the N. Ultreya held on March 27th in Launceston had the theme of “Hope”. They all combined to encourage a sense of optimism and affirm our enjoyment of being together as we pray, worship and praise God. It was a wonderful way to start off our Cursillo year as we look towards Commissioning the Team for MW34 in September for their Weekend at Camp Clayton in March 2022.

Thinking of MW34, would you please pray that God will move our hearts as we consider sponsoring, and about whom to approach. Ongoing prayers for the Lay Coordinator Kathryn Anderson and the Team formation are also needed.

The Cursillistas in Hong Kong are planning their next Cursillo Weekend for June. They have faced many challenges in their preparation and would welcome your prayers. It reminds me of Romans 8:37 “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us”. May you too claim victory over the challenges that face you.

It was exciting to attend the Ordination in February in person and know that the Synod planned for May is also due to be ‘in person’. Whilst acknowledging that changes may occur at any time, we are increasingly confident about planning our Diocesan events. There will be a Diocesan Ultreya later in the year where we can rejoice in seeing even more Cursillistas together in one venue than we have seen for a while. De Colores



A Report of the Southern Ultreya by Annette Sims

The March Southern Ultreya was held at St Mark's, Cygnet. Channel/Cygnet is the most southern of our Southern parishes and is home to some of our earliest Cursillistas. What an encouragement to see their long-standing faithfulness and commitment to being God's people in their community.

Twenty-six Cursillistas attended, representing the parishes of Channel/Cygnet, Edge, New Town Lenah Valley and Wellspring.

The theme for this Ultreya was ‘God is Love’, and in her witness talk, Rev Dr Lesley Borowitzka shared her story of experiencing God's BIG love. Lesley spoke of her love of science and career as a microbiologist, tracing her journey of reconciling the apparent incompatibility of science and belief in God, a task in which study and learning led her from knowing about God to faith and a relationship with God. She noted the paradox that all the things she long resisted, including Cursillo, turned out to be steps in her faith journey, an observation that resonated with many present.

In his response, Rev Charles Holmes noted the profound impact of Cursillo, describing it as the beginning of surprises, and assured us that if we stay with our faith, God will continue to surprise us.

For those who attended, the atmosphere of intimacy in a small gathering allowed for the open sharing of personal responses to Lesley's witness talk and opportunities to reflect in Group Reunion on our experiences of God's Love and our responses to it in our daily lives, inspired to keep on – onward and upward – expectant of the surprises God has in store with which to grace us.