Rainbow Connection

Anglican Cursillo Tasmania October 2026

A Reflection from Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Lee Weissel

Open Hands

Exodus 20:1–2; Matthew 21:33–46

Before the first "you shall not" in Exodus 20, there is an "I am": "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery." God does not begin with a demand. He begins with a rescue.

That order matters. The commandments are not the entrance fee to God's favour; they are the habits of people who have already been set free. The Hebrew word for "slavery" in that verse shares a root with the word for worship. We are never rescued from serving into idleness, only from a harsh master to a generous One.

In Matthew, Jesus tells of a landowner who plants a vineyard, builds a wall, a winepress and a tower, then trusts it to tenants. Everything is gift. All he asks is a share of the fruit at harvest. Yet the tenants forget they are tenants. They begin to treat the vineyard as theirs, and every request from the owner feels like a threat.

It is a surprisingly easy mistake to make. My time. My money. My gifts. My church, and my way. When something given becomes something owned, we grip it, and a gripped hand cannot receive anything more.

Jesus offers a different picture: the apprentice. The word "disciple" means learner, someone who attaches their life to a master in order to become like him. An apprentice knows the tools belong to the master and is simply glad to be trusted with them. And Jesus, the Son the tenants rejected, becomes the cornerstone: the one who did not grasp, but gave himself away. The fruit he asks of us is not something we manufacture by gritting our teeth. It grows naturally in branches that stay joined to the Vine.

None of this happens alone. Apprentices learn beside others: in kitchens, over cups of tea, in the phone call that asks, "How are you really?" Ask who you might learn from, and who you might quietly take alongside you.

What have I begun to treat as mine? Where might God be asking for a share of the fruit: an hour, a gift, an apology, a welcome?

De Colores



A Message from our DLD, Alice Cordwell

Well, my time here in the USA with my son is coming to an end for another year. There has been much happening both here and at home that I cannot say it has been my most joyous time. But, in all this I am thankful. Thankful for FAMILY. I looked up a simple definition of FAMILY - 'a group of people related by blood, marriage, or adoption' - there is our immediate family, our extended family, our chosen family. I would like to touch on our '**adopted**' and '**chosen**' family. In Ephesians 1:5 we are told God predestined us for **adoption** to sonship, and in 1John 3:1 'See what great love the Father has **lavished** (what a beautiful word) on us, that we should be called children of God'. This is *US*, and as such, we are *FAMILY*.

This has been on my mind a lot lately as the health of two of my dearest friends, Noreen Bolton (aged 89), candidate on W6, and Graham Bolton, candidate on M23, deteriorated after I left to come here. They both drove me to the airport to see me off. Noreen, who had lived with Parkinson's for many years, died peacefully, with Graham at her side, on 7th October 2026 in the LGH. Graham, who cared for Noreen so well, remains a patient in the LGH and will be headed to Peter Mac in Melbourne for further treatment when he is well enough. I consider them to be family. I have been as close to them as I am to my siblings. We met at St Barnabas church, when Bill Percey (M4, and Spiritual Adviser for 6 weekends through until M15) was Rector, this was over 30 years ago. They are my brother and sister, as we **all** are family, through God's grace and choosing.

Another member of our Cursillo family, Lesley Freak, (aged 60), W30, died on 20th September after a long illness, her funeral was at St Johns Launceston on 24th September. Both Noreen and Lesley safe in the arms of Jesus. I am thankful to God for the family He has provided for me, and that includes my extended family in Cursillo. I was invited to my Cursillo weekend back in 1998 and have been continually blessed with an even greater extension of my spiritual family, outside of my church and local Christian community, through this movement. Our Cursillo family is fairly large with over 300 on our current contact list and over 100 on our Archive list. Those numbers are a reflection of our 30 years in the Tasmanian Diocese. So many lives enhanced by our living, loving Lord through our Cursillo family.

Mark Cox (MW 38), spoke well on another aspect of family, in relation to our children, at the Ultreya held on 12th September at St Aidans, Launceston. Please see the report by Shirley Tongue in this Rainbow Connection. If you haven't been to an Ultreya for a while, can I urge you to consider coming along to' Barneys' - St Barnabas, Newnham, on 14th November and experience that special Cursillo fellowship and love of our extended spiritual family once again.

De Colores, Alice Cordwell - Diocesan Lay Director

Cursillo Prayer Team

One of the privileges of being a Cursillista is the opportunity to ask for prayer from a wider group. Prayer requests can be sent to the Cursillo Secretary, Raelene Weissel.

Please email cursillotas@gmail.com with your prayer requests which are then sent onto the Prayer Team.

Please consider joining the Team and committing some of your time to this service. You can email me at ruthwthomas7008@gmail.com

De Colores and Cheers from Ruth Thomas, Coordinator Cursillo Prayer Team



DATES TO REMEMBER



October 16th -18th - National Secretariat meeting, Queensland

October 24th - Bishop's Training Event Launceston

October 31st - Bishop's Training Event Hobart

November 14th Ultreya/gathering All Saints Launceston North (Barneys)
Witness Speaker: Michelle Basalto

2027 February 20th Special Synod Launceston

Ultreya Report by Shirley Tongue

There were 9 parishes from around the Diocese represented at the recent Ultreya at St Aidan's, East Launceston on September 12th. We basked in the warmth and brightness of the sun and of the fellowship.



Mark Cox, who attended MW38 earlier this year, gave a moving and powerful Witness Talk that resonated with many of the parents present as he spoke of the deep pain experienced when things don't go as we'd hoped for our children. He reminded us of the great love that God has for our children and urged us to choose faith over fear, trusting in Jesus when we see our child suffering.

The Rev Warwick Cuthbertson led us in the eucharist before we took enthusiastic advantage of the chance to catch up with others over a shared lunch. The program for the day finished with Floating Group Reunions, giving us the opportunity to share our faith journey and pray for one another in small groups.

Our next Ultreya will be held at St Barnabas Anglican Church in Newnham on Saturday November 14th. We hope to see many of you there to be encouraged and to be an encouragement to others to keep the flame of Cursillo alive in our hearts.













Everyone is Invited to

a Diocesan Cursillo Gathering (Ultreya)

Speaker: Michelle Basalto

Theme- Hope as our Anchor – holding on to the promises of God.

Date: Saturday 14th November 2026

Time: 10am (10:30 start)-3pm

Bring: 'Finger' food to share for lunch.
Tea and Coffee provided

Where: All Saints Launceston North (Barneys),
17A George Town Road Newnham, 7248, Launceston

Bring your friends and come along for a day of fellowship and sharing.

DE COLORES!