

Rainbow Connection

Anglican Cursillo Tasmania

February 2024

A Reflection from Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Lee Weissel

Then the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I give you."

Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh. Now Nineveh was a very large city; it took three days to go through it.

Jonah 3 v1-3

The old way to capture a monkey was to place an object of desire inside a box or barrel. The object would catch the monkey's attention, and they would reach into the crate and grab the object. They would then try and remove it, only to discover that they could not fit their closed hand, let alone the object through the opening. The desire to have the object was so great that even when their potential captors came close, they would still struggle to remove it. It was only at the final moment would they release, only to realise that it was too late. Letting go in order to go and live was key. For us, it may not be a banana, but we can often be holding onto things that stop us from living the fullness God has called us to.

In the story of Jonah, we see a prophet of God having to let go of things he was holding onto that were not of God. These same lessons can apply to us. The first is letting go of our hatred of those we consider enemies, like Jonah has to in order to go and preach to the Ninevites.

It can also be letting go of our plans and ideas about where we should go, also like Jonah when he takes off in the opposite direction from where God tells him to go.

And particularly today, is letting go of our identities. Jonah liked the title of Prophet but had to let go of his understanding in order to embrace God's purposes. It is only after Jonah goes through all in chapter 1 and 2, is he ready to truly hear God, and thankfully, God is gracious and merciful, allowing Jonah a second chance.

In this story, Jonah still feels overwhelmed as he talks about 'Ninevah was a very large city'. In the Hebrew, the emphasis is that it is a large city, even for God, but this is supposed to be part of the humour of the text. There is no city too large for God, it is supposed to reflect that Jonah's understanding of God is too small.

Likewise for us, our vision and understanding of God can be too small, so we hang onto other things (like a banana) and put our trust in those things, telling ourselves these are 'just in case', things.

This year as we begin to journey together, let ask God for a bigger vision and understanding of Him. Also, let us turn back to God if we have been holding onto things that have prevented us from flourishing in Him. And as always, let us pray asking for God's leading in our lives and our communities.

De Colores

PALANCA

Please start thinking about Palanca for MW36 in May.

You are welcome to drop it off at the homes of Keir Steedman (0408131520, Western shore) or Susan Pearce (0427345978, Eastern shore) by Tuesday 30th April.

The last mail collection from the North Hobart Post box is Mon 29th April.

Post Palanca to: Anglican Cursillo TAS, PO Box 483, North Hobart 7002

Dates for your 2024 Calendar

24th Feb Ordination St David's Cathedral

29 - 31st March – Easter

18th April - Paid and completed Application forms for MW36 to be submitted.

2nd-5th May 2024 MW36 Camp Clayton

25th May 2024 Ultreya in Longford to Welcome the Cursillistas of MW36

2024

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A Message from Ruth Thomas, our DLD

It is a wonderful Blessing to have a strong group of Christians willing to respond to the various prayer requests sent out by the Cursillo Secretary. We can be confident that our Loving Father is with us through every difficulty and knowing other Cursillistas are praying for us can boost our sense of well-being. Please continue to be such faithful prayer warriors. Your prayers do make a difference. We give thanks for the life of Marie Young (W19 and Parish Contact for Brighton since 2021) who died, aged 73, on 30.11.23. We are grateful for the contribution Ross Gregory (M26 and M30) made to our Cursillo community and remember his passing, aged 86, on 4.12.23. We mourn with Ruth Cox over the loss of her mother, aged 89, on 9.12.23 and thank our gracious God that the family had time to gather at her bedside.

I am very grateful to the 4th Day community for your prayers and for your interest. I recovered well from the 2 surgeries before Christmas and the first chemotherapy infusion. 3 more infusions to go over the next 9 weeks. Then there will be a review to consider the possibility of radiation. I continue to be blessed by God's love shining through the many people who have helped me along this breast cancer journey.

Arrangements are underway for Ultreyas at St Aiden's E. Launceston on Sat March 16th, the Welcome Day at Longford on Sat May 25th and one at Edge, Claremont in either June or July. All excellent opportunities to worship, praise God, and rejoice in His goodness and love.

Greg Stanford (Lay Coordinator), Paul Dennis (Proctor) and the rest of the Team for MW36 have been in training for the Weekend 2 – 5th May at Camp Clayton. Please pray for protection over the Team and their families as they step out in faith to complete their God-given task of being the loving Christian core of what will become the MW36 community.

Please pray about who God is calling you to sponsor and approach them with the application form, which can be printed from the tascursillo.asn.au website. The completed forms and payment need to be submitted by 18th April (details on the application form). Please ring me on 0408 287 255 if you would like forms posted to you.

Thank you to Susan Pearce and Chris Gibbons for creating the beautiful arrangement (as below) on behalf of Cursillo for Blooming Church at St David's Cathedral on the Theme of Oasis. The verse chosen by Susan and Chris is Isaiah 35:2(b) "they will see the glory of the Lord and the splendour of our God". The Evensong at the Cathedral on Friday 9th February was a joyous occasion which jointly celebrated the launch of the floral festival and the 150th anniversary of the consecration of the Cathedral. Well attended by many Cursillistas in the crowded Cathedral. Praise the Lord for His mighty works.

De Colores

