

Rainbow Connection

Anglican Cursillo Tasmania

December 2025

The Mountains We Climb: A Cursillo Devotion

from Diosesan Spiritual Advisor Lee Weissel

Throughout Scripture, mountains are places where God meets His people—places of challenge, revelation, and transformation. As we journey in our Fourth Day, walking out our Cursillo experience, we too encounter mountains that shape our discipleship.

Mount Ararat – New Beginnings

After the flood, Noah's ark rested on Mount Ararat (Genesis 8:4). It was a place of fresh start after chaos. Our Cursillo weekend was an Ararat moment—a new beginning in Christ. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17). Each day in our Fourth Day is another opportunity to step out onto new ground, trusting God's promises.

Mount Moriah – Testing and Trust

On Mount Moriah, Abraham's faith was tested (Genesis 22:2). Our Fourth Day brings its own trials—moments when following Christ feels costly or difficult. Yet Jesus reminds us: "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). These Moriah moments don't defeat us—they develop us, deepening our trust in God's faithfulness.

Mount Sinai – Learning and Wisdom

Moses received God's law on Mount Sinai (Exodus 31:18)—a place of revelation and learning. Our Cursillo weekend taught us much, but the Fourth Day is where we continue learning from our greatest teacher. "Take my yoke upon you and learn from me," Jesus invites us, "for I am gentle and humble in heart" (Matthew 11:29). Through Group Reunion, Ultreya, and daily piety, study, and action, we grow in grace and knowledge.

Mount Carmel – Courage and Conviction

Elijah stood alone on Mount Carmel, calling God's people back to faithfulness (1 Kings 18:21). In our workplaces, families, and communities, we too must sometimes stand firm for what is right. "Be strong and courageous," God promises. "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). Our Cursillo community surrounds us, but ultimately it is God's presence that gives us courage.

Mount of Transfiguration – Transformation

On this mountain, Jesus was transfigured before His disciples (Matthew 17:2). Our Cursillo weekend gave us a glimpse of Christ's glory—a mountaintop experience. But true transformation happens in the valley of the Fourth Day, as we "are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory" (2 Corinthians 3:18). Make a friend, be a friend, bring a friend to Christ—and watch God's transforming work continue.

The Reflection continues...

Mount Calvary – Sacrificial Love

At Calvary, Jesus gave everything (John 19:17-18). Our Fourth Day calls us to this same spirit of sacrificial love—serving in our environments, living out our baptismal covenant, loving as Christ loved. "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends" (John 15:13). This is the heart of Christian action—love made visible.

Mount Zion – Joy and Celebration

The Bible ends with Mount Zion, symbol of God's eternal city (Hebrews 12:22). While we press toward this ultimate goal, we also celebrate the mini-Zions along our Fourth Day journey—answered prayers, spiritual growth, new brothers and sisters in Christ.

"I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14).

Dear Cursillistas, our Fourth Day isn't one mountain—it's a whole range. Each peak and valley has its purpose. But we don't climb alone. Through Group Reunion, we share the journey. Through Ultreya, we celebrate together. Through our commitment to piety, study, and action, we keep climbing. Jesus walks with us on every mountain: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24).

Remember:

Every mountain has a lesson
Every climb has a purpose
Every summit reminds us that God has been faithful
Jesus is our guide who will never leave us

"Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith" (Hebrews 12:1-2).

May you continue climbing faithfully in your Fourth Day, surrounded by your community and strengthened by Christ.

Ultreya!
Amen



A Message from Ruth Thomas, our Diocesan Lay Director

October was a busy month with the southern Bishop's Training Event at Kinston on 18th Oct and then National Secretariat 24 – 26th held at Holy Trinity Launceston. All the planning came together and the meeting went well. The hall was functional and looked cheerful with the various Banners. There were 30 attendees at the meeting (delegates and observers). Thank you to Raelene Weissel for agreeing to be the Secretary Elect for National. To take over from the current National Secretary Kay Self in Oct 2026.

The Saturday afternoon bus trip covered some of the scenic area in the Tamar Valley with a stop off for a picnic lunch at Paper Beach, near Swan Point, West Tamar. The Interstate visitors and the locals on the bus all enjoyed the trip and the opportunity to chat informally away from the meeting room. Grahame Foster (Land Voyages) did an excellent job as both Tour Guide and bus driver.

The 30th anniversary dinner was a success. Bp Richard spoke well and joined with the other Tas Cursillistas for a group photo. Peter Johnson (MI) did a brilliant job of speaking about the early days of Cursillo in Tasmania. Everyone enjoyed the dinner. Jean Cox (WI) confidently cut both the celebration cakes. Thank you to Janet Stone for making the cake to suit those with dietary requirements. You can read Peter's talk and see Shirley's report in this Rainbow Connection.

After the meeting finished on Sunday there was an outdoor lunch in the sunshine while the hall was packed up and made ready for Parish use. Jon Hosford, a Cursillista from Holy Trinity, was very helpful in many ways to ensure both the smooth setting up and packing up of the hall. Jon also took some delegates to the airport on Monday 27th Oct. Grahame Foster had collected some delegates from the Launceston airport on Thursday 23rd Oct and we took some to the airport in the tour bus as we headed off on the Stanley trip Sunday 26th Oct. We were blessed with sunshine at Stanley and the West Coast. Fantastic trip. A good atmosphere prevailed as we admired the scenery and enjoyed our holiday. Everyone I spoke to on the trip agreed it had exceeded their expectations. The reality was even better than the tour brochure had indicated. Grahame's willingness to assist in many ways contributed hugely to the success of Tasmania's hosting of National Secretariat.

The December Secretariat meeting included the Decommissioning of both Catherine Woodberry (Secretary) and Grahame Foster (Treasurer) who have served faithfully for over 5 years. Raelene Weissel was Commissioned as incoming Secretary and David Tilley will be Commissioned at the 7th Feb 2026 meeting as the Treasurer. Thank you to Raelene and David for stepping into vacancies. Opportunities are still there for others to serve.

As a member of the New Town/Lenah Valley Parish I am very excited to say that Lee Weissel (Diocesan and National Spiritual Director) will be our next Rector. To be appointed in 2026.

May you have a Blessed and safe Christmas. May our loving Lord surround you with His peace.

De Colores





Photos from the
National Secretariat
meeting, the 30th
Anniversary dinner and
the bus trip.





Photos from the National Secretariat meeting, the 30th Anniversary dinner and the bus trip.



Photos: Ruth Thomas



Photo: Shirley Tongue



**Address to the Cursillo 30th Anniversary Dinner by Rev. Dr Peter Johnson MI, (and first DLD) at Hotel Grand Chancellor, Launceston
October 25, /2025.**

Hi, I'm Peter, and I was a part of the Tasmanian Men's I, on the table of St. Mark. This evening, I want to talk to you about a particular group of people, but that can wait a while.

Bishop Richard, ladies and gentlemen, thirty years ago I was conned into becoming part of Cursillo. The Rector of my parish at that time, the late Rev. Kelvin Viney, said 'Peter, an organisation called Cursillo is coming to Tasmania. You must be part of it.' This was not what I wanted. I was busy, and I had little time to spare. But something happened.

It took me some time to find out that someone, pretending to be me applied for me to join Men's I. And, I'm very sorry Kelvin, for what I said to you when you forged my signature on the application form for that event.

Now let's carry on from that beginning. Very recently I attended another Cursillo meeting and, thirty years after the first, I learnt something so obvious, but something that needs thinking about. I noticed a group of men and women that I hadn't met before. However, I'll get back to that later. But just for a moment I want to talk to you about me. Time is not always a constant feature. The past can change the future. But only if we're wise enough to let it.

A thirty-year anniversary is an important event in any organisation, and that's certainly so for Cursillo Tasmania, but it is so mainly if we see in it a time for one main exercise - for one great reason. Any event such as this is not just a celebration of having travelled along a path set by our first experience with Cursillo, though that is an experience in itself. Cursillo must always be a journey — it must be a journey - with Jesus.

Such an event as the one we're celebrating this evening is, like any anniversary, not only about understanding and celebrating the past - though in many ways we should do this. Any anniversary gives us these opportunities. But there's more to it than that. An analysis of the past is the perfect way of planning the future. And, we can do this by looking at our own Cursillo histories in order that we can plan other people's futures. Yes. As we're rejoicing here this evening, we're here to reflect on our **continuing** journeys, but not just by centering on our own happiness in the presence of Jesus with us in a journey of life with God, however wonderful that is. You see, that's not all. It's not just our journeys that are an important feature of the past, and, to fail to see that this is something that we all have to avoid, and that can sometimes give us a great surprise. And that is why later I'm going to tell you about that other group I came across recently. But to start with I want to make a statement.

As you have probably gathered, thirty years ago, I did not want to go to Cursillo. And, at this stage, I'd better tell you that it took me a very long time before I eventually, but very slowly, started to forget the misery I felt as I drove to Camp Clayton. There were two other people in my car. One was just as disgruntled as me. The other was very excited and just wouldn't shut up. And then I looked around me as I got to the place - - and groaned inwardly. Yes - I did not want to go to Cursillo. I tried very hard to avoid it - I thought I could succeed - but I'd forgotten about God.

Peter's address continues...

But in that experience at Camp Clayton, I was shown a three-day experience of God's presence with a bunch of very ordinary people like me. And this made me remember that my journey in life had to be with God. That was something brought before me as the focal point of any future. That knowledge had always been there, but now a way, only one of many, this was put before me. So, here it is.

You see, after that, I started on a journey, one which is still continuing and, I hope, one which will go on for ever. Yes, slowly but surely, those men from the Diocese of Gippsland introduced us all, doubters included, introduced us all to what was going on. They introduced us to the value of Cursillo. They were, of course, a very great group of Christian people - and I thank them all. The journey that started for me that day has continued ever since. Well not all of it, unfortunately. Singing hymns accompanied by a man with a trombone hasn't continued - and we no longer sing them to the meter of Dixie which I found very strange - but rather wonderful. Yes, there was a lot special about those men from Gippsland.

So, there were these two Christian men from Majorca. They were devout men and, like all such, they longed to see, and accomplish, more. And they did. But they would not, at that time, have been able to guess at the widespread nature of what they had started. They may have hoped for, but could not have envisaged, the spread of active Christian living that their vision has brought about. And they certainly hadn't met the group I want to tell you about.

As they walked to St James of Compostella, by looking inwardly, and by examining themselves, they worked on developing, and fine tuning, their faith and Christian living. But they could never have had any inkling of what would follow from their journey, neither physical, nor through their faith, nor in their worship of God. What wonderful Christian men they were.

But now, ladies and gentlemen, we are here as their successors - successors, not only in this way we're celebrating today - but as present-day evangelists in the name of Jesus, in whom, like those two men, in whom we trust and believe. Believe in God, for whom we, also, must constantly look at ourselves. Believe in God, in whom we, also, refine our Christian lives. And worship God, to whom we also look as we work to pass on our own faith to others.

Now, I don't know about your spiritual journeys, but God has taken me a long way from that very physical journey to Camp Clayton, from a physical journey of doubt and misery about the value of those first three days, to a spiritual journey of excitement and wonder. However, what I do know is this. That however far we travel on our journey of faith, there is always further to go. And there are more people to encourage to look at their journeys of faith in our Lord. More people to enlighten, more people to encourage, and more people to bring into this journey with Jesus.

Peter's address continues...

A few weeks ago, I went to the commissioning of the team for Men's and Women's 38 in Tasmania and, as I listened, and watched, what I saw was this. I saw, not only a group of Christian men and women continuing a process which, thanks be to God, continues in the hands - and in the hearts - of those who were carrying this onwards. It was not just in their own fourth day journey, but also the continuing process of forming new Christian leaders - of those who are to become such active members of their parishes, one of the great purposes of Cursillo. All that I had expected and was sure of.

But then, there was more to look at, not just at that time, but also in the future —a group. Men and women as yet unseen, but not only as the leaders of Men's and Women's 38 - but also as something else. Oh yes, the people I also saw were a very special group. These people I saw — were the candidates for Men's and Women's 38. These were the people who I saw in my mind's eye - these were the men and these were the women - these were the Christians as yet unseen - but despite that, these men and women were a vision which contains so much promise. This group are the candidates who will be a part of Men's and Women's 38. But, not only this, these men and women are the future, and these men and women must be a focus not just of Men's and Women's 38 in Tasmania — but more.

And this is the way in which celebrating 30 years of Cursillo in Tasmania becomes a journey into the future, not just a thanksgiving for the past and the present. Because of these candidates, and through them - we can have a plan of action —and, with God's help, through them, we will have a future of Christian development. This is so important to remember, not just for that team now training in the presence of the Lord, but also all teams in the future. It is so important that we see, in these candidates, in their faces - in their smiles, and in their hearts - it is important that we see not only joy - but also determination.

And here it is. It is also vitally important that we see in them - in those faces - that we see in them the leaders of Cursillo Tasmania in our tomorrows come into being. But also, to see in them something else. See in them, and in the faces of all candidates of the future, see Secretariat members. Find in them leaders in every three-day weekend of the future. There may be a DLD there, a proctor - an encourager, a team member, a group reunion leader, and many other activities associated with Cursillo. And, so importantly, they will become enthusiastic members of their parishes. These people must not just be candidates taken down a well-worn path. These men and women are to become encouragers and servants in their parishes, and they will also include people who will fill so many positions in the Cursillo groups reunions. And all this is a wonderful thought, but not one that they will have in their minds during their time at Men's and Women's 38, nor perhaps, even on their journeys home.

In Men's and Women's 38, and always in the future, to be a true success, the whole team must be looking for those who will be able to take hold of the reins - under God's guidance.

Of course, this is not to deny the success of those who have served Cursillo so well - they will always remain in our hearts. This is a prayer to see that, in these new names, Christian love will, once started, Christian love will be continued not just for a time, but through God's time.

But there is one last thing I must do tonight, and here it is. Thank you, the late Reverend Kelvin Viney. Thank you for starting me on this part of my Journey with Jesus.

De Colores!

A Report of the National Secretariat Meeting by Shirley Tongue

What a joy and privilege it was to host the 2025 National Secretariat meeting in late October. 17 delegates and several observers from 8 Dioceses around Australia gathered at Holy Trinity, Launceston to share in worship, reflection and fellowship while considering the meeting's theme of "Post Cursillo – the Fourth Day". As delegates responded to the prompts: "What does the Fourth Day look like and how does it work in your Diocese?", it was a valuable and enlightening opportunity to hear about how we are all working towards keeping Cursillistas engaged and active in their Fourth Day. We were reminded how fundamental the sense of community is to the Cursillo method and the importance of strengthening it through Group Reunions and Ultreyas.

We listened to the successes, joys, challenges and struggles the Cursillo Movement experiences in the various Dioceses and discussed how we could increase our support of one another. As we explored various ways in which different Secretariats have adapted the 3 Day programme to better meet the particular needs of their Diocese, for example the tyranny of distance, our time poor society, or a lack of Diocesan support, we again faced the issue of how much we can change before we are no longer offering an authentic Cursillo experience.

On the Saturday evening, we joined local Cursillistas at the Hotel Grand Chancellor for a special dinner to celebrate 30 years of Cursillo in Tasmania. Our guest speaker was the Rev Dr Peter Johnson from Men's I, who spoke about his experience of Cursillo in the past and his confident vision for its future in the State. Jean Cox from Women's I cut the two celebration cakes, one of which was gluten and dairy free, courtesy of Janet Stone. Bishop Richard Condie welcomed us and prayed for our new National Episcopal Overseer, Bishop Carol Wagner from Canberra/Goulburn, who is still to be formally commissioned by the Primate. We enjoyed an evening of warm fellowship and fine food.

After the final eucharist on Sunday morning, Bishop Carol decommissioned Margaret Brodie as National Treasurer and commissioned Alison Wooden from Newcastle Diocese in her place. Raelene Weissel was elected unopposed as National Secretary, to be commissioned in 2026, and the Rev Dr Lee Weissel has agreed to complete a second term as National Spiritual Advisor. I am continuing in the role of Website Coordinator, so Tasmania is still punching above its weight on the Executive.

On the Saturday afternoon, many of the attendees availed themselves of a coach tour along the Tamar Valley, courtesy of Grahame Foster (Land Voyages). After the meeting, a group of 18 joined Grahame on a 4-day trip to the North-west and Arthur River. The Lord was gracious, providing glorious weather for the entire tour, which was greatly enjoyed by all participants.

May the Lord continue to use Cursillo powerfully in spreading his love throughout Tasmania, the Mainland and worldwide. May we all strive to change our environments by Making a friend, Being a friend and Bringing our friend to Jesus.

Pray for MW38

Pray for the team: Naomi Skeat, James Eaton, Margaret Hosford, Joshua Skeat, Jo Tevelin, Ruth Cox, Heather Eaton, Jon Hosford, Pippa Stanford, Heather and Mark Krause, David Tilley, Nom Lattimore, Brett & Claire Lund and Chris Gibbons.

Please pray for those that God has prepared to attend the weekend from 27 Feb – 1st March 2026 and pray for who you can invite to receive the joy and Blessings that God has in store for them.