

Rainbow Connection

Anglican Cursillo Tasmania

February 2025

A Reflection from Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Lee Weissel

For the first three quarters of 2024, bible sales for Nelson Bible publishers were 253 million dollars. A strange phenomenon of this huge demand was that 80% of bibles being bought were by people who had no religious affiliation. Brought in a few years ago, the publishers thought they needed to know their market better by asking purchasers about who they were and why they were purchasing bibles. The results for last year demonstrated something very surprising. The market, predominately under 35, reported that they had heard or read something about the bible and wanted to check it out for themselves. Something is happening. And for many there is a new beginning. We are in the season of Epiphany, and of surprising beginnings. In our readings through this season at church we hear again the stories of Jesus', events that laid the foundation of Jesus' public ministry.

When Jesus began his public ministry, we understand that there is great expectation of the messiah arriving, and we need to remember that there are several groups working in Israel. We have the Sadducees who downplay the prophets and messianic expectation, the zealots who want to do violence against the Roman occupiers, there are the Pharisees who seek to keep all the laws and have added even more laws to try and cover any violation. So much so that the people are crushed by trying to hopelessly keep all the laws. And of course there are the Essenes, who have left to live outside the city in an austere and simple community. All of these are based around the temple or in relation to it as being seen the place of the presence of God. The temple was seen as the place where heaven and earth intersected. It had very well-defined boundaries to keep separate the holiness of God and the sinfulness of people.

And then there is another group who we meet the most famous, who are the baptisers. We meet John the Baptist, who called people to a baptism of repentance in the waters of the river Jordan. In all of this mix of people and confusion, Jesus walked, and pointed the way to salvation.

As Jesus's disciples today, we walk in a mix of people and confusing time, and we face constant new beginnings. We are reminded of this as we enter a new calendar year. In our lives we constantly face unexpected challenges and opportunities as well as disappointments and failures. Yet each of these new chapters also represents an ending. A new beginning is also a time of grieving for what is lost, a time of giving thanks for what has ended, a time of reflection on what is past. Baptism is all about letting go of the past and committing to God's future. Although there is only 'one baptism' for each of us, its pattern of letting go and moving on is a constant theme of the Christian way of life. As we enter into 2025 as Cursillitas, let us be open to the leading of the Spirit. God calls us to invite people into relationship with him. Something is happening!

De Colores

A Message from Ruth Thomas, our DLD

There is a phrase sometimes heard in Cursillo "Bloom where you are planted". A phrase that is obviously relevant to Christians in other organisations. I was delighted to see it as part of the Reflection for February in the Mothers' Union Prayer Diary for 2025. I have substituted 'Cursillo' for 'Mothers' Union' and reprinted the Reflection here.

"As we take a moment to think of the impact Cursillo has around the world, may we remember the lives that are touched daily, at all hours of the day when we pray for one another."

"God has planted each of us where we need to be. He has placed us here in his time and in his way. As we are scattered like seeds in our communities, we are part of the new growth springing to life, He brings us new growth through the resurrection power of Christ and through the strength of the Holy Spirit. We are a people of hope. Let's reflect this unshakeable hope together as Cursillo". Hope 25 activities will be featuring in our Parishes between Easter and Pentecost (20 April – 31 May). Please support your Parish in their endeavours. Shirley Tongue, the Cursillo Website Coordinator, has put the link to Hope 25 resources on our website tascursillo.asn.au. Please check it out, it is interesting and worth reading.

The idea of "Blooming where we are planted" fits in beautifully with Blooming Church at St David's Cathedral 8 – 10 February. The theme is "In the garden". Chris Gibbons and Judy Maplestone prepared an arrangement on behalf of Cursillo. You can see the photos and report in this issue.

The next Ultreya will be on Sat 22nd March at Holy Trinity 34 Cameron St Launceston. Jon and Margaret Hosford will be the Witness Speakers. Come along at 10am for a time of shared fellowship with other Cursillistas.

MW37 will be held at Blue Lagoon Dodges from Friday 20th June till Sunday 22nd June. It will be a shortened but still complete Cursillo Weekend. Please invite and sponsor someone who may be delighted with a Friday evening start (rather than Thursday) due to work or other commitments. The new application form is on the website (tascursillo.asn.au) in the general section. I would be happy to post out hard copies to anyone who would find that easier. Please ring or text me on 0408287255.

De Colores

Please pray for the Team for MW37

Lay Coordinator- George Humphrey

Proctor- Anne Brown

Spiritual Advisors - Lee Weissel & Josh Skeat

Raelene Weissel, Naomi Skeat, Margaret Brodie, Margie Headlam,
Sonya & Darren de Lacey, Arthur & Jeanne Wherrett, Annette Sims, Keir Steedman,
Luke Campton, David Tilley, Dahoo Hurst & Becky Cui

BLOOMING CHURCH 2025

For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations. Isaiah 61:11

Blooming Church has just been held at St David's Cathedral. The Theme was In the Garden. There were many beautiful vases of flowers and floral displays. Judy and I were privileged to do the floral arrangement on behalf of Cursillo with God providing the stunning dahlias from my garden. The floral festival was launched with a Choral Evensong at the Cathedral on Friday 7th. Two concerts were held in conjunction with the festival. The Sunday concert was entitled Echoes of Eden and featured Peter Warren and the Floral Festival Singers. They performed madrigals, songs, and solo piano and organ pieces. The Secret Garden Concert was held on the Monday. and began with the singers appearing in the transept singing the folksong 'Wild Mountain Thyme'. We heard several songs from the musical "The Secret Garden" based on the well-known children's book and a recital of William Wordsworth's poem about daffodils. The final song was 'All Things Bright and Beautiful' and the encore was 'Octopus's Garden'! The performers were Allison Farrow, Ingrid Leibbrandt, Andrew Short, Matthew Ives and Iestyn Parry.

De Colores

Chris Gibbons



DATES TO REMEMBER 2025



Sat 22nd March Ultreya at Holy Trinity, Launceston

20th April – 31st May Easter to Pentecost – Hope 25

Friday 20th June – Sunday 22nd June MW37 Cursillo Weekend

Sat 5th July MW37 Welcome Day, St David's Cathedral Complex

Sat 27th Oct 30th Anniversary Dinner Holy Trinity, Launceston