

Rainbow Connection

Anglican Cursillo Tasmania

April 2024

A Reflection from Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Lee Weissel

Easter 2024

All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:18-20

The words from the final chapter of Matthew’s Gospel are given to us to understand how Jesus understands what it means to be resurrected. And these words give us great hope and assurance. From Jesus’ own mouth comes his understanding. Jesus tells us he is present now and always.

Jesus is explaining what the resurrection means now in a changed world. He tells us four things right there. He’s by the right hand of the throne of the universe, he’s in the ministry of the gospel, he’s with the community of his people, and he’s at the end of the world. That’s the meaning of the resurrection. Because he’s raised, that’s where he is.

J.R.R. Tolkien said one of the big problems we have in the modern world is we think of drama as real art, and we think of the fairy tale, the fantasy, the romance, as not true art anymore. He uses two words: *dyscatastrophe* and *eucatastrophe*. *Dyscatastrophe*, which literally means a bad catastrophe, is a catastrophe that ends in sorrow.

Eucatastrophe, starts with *eu* (which is a Greek word that means good), is a catastrophe that ends in joy: a turn of events, life out of death, triumph out of what looks like defeat, triumph out of what looks like a complete failure. He says the essence of drama is tragedy, *dyscatastrophe*. But he says there is a kind of art form, that is the happy ending, the success beyond hope.

He says it’s something, of course, we now in the twentieth century insist that happy endings happen only for children’s stories. That has never been true. Fairy tales were not for children. Legends were not for children. The old stories were not for children until the twentieth century.

What’s he talking about? Things look worse and worse and worse. Things look like there’s no hope, and all of a sudden there’s a turn. All of a sudden, beyond anything we could’ve imagined, it’s all right. Happy ending. The twentieth century has said, “That’s for children.” It punished Steven Spielberg for years because all of his movies had happy endings. They said, “That’s for kids.” They wouldn’t give him an Oscar until he started making movies that had nasty endings, sad endings, until they ended in *dyscatastrophe*. All the stuff that had *eucatastrophe*, “No, that’s for children.”

Here’s why. The modern world says, “Oh, look at that. Here you’re crying at the end of Superman, you’re crying at the end of E.T., you’re crying at the end of Star Wars. It’s wonderful. It’s incredible to see, but that’s for kids.” Do you know why? Because the modern world says, “Life is not like that. The universe is not like that.” Jesus Christ says, “Oh, yes, it is. The world is like that. The crosses will be swallowed up in a resurrection. I stand at the end of the age. I am the world’s happy ending.”

Tolkien goes on and says this, “The Gospels contain a story of a larger kind which embraces all the essence of stories. They contain many marvels—peculiarly artistic, beautiful, and moving: ‘mythical’ in their perfect, self-contained significance; and among the marvels is the greatest and most complete conceivable *eucatastrophe*. But this story has entered History and the primary world; the desire and aspiration of sub-creation has been raised to the fulfillment of Creation.

The Birth of Christ is the *eucatastrophe* of Human history. The Resurrection is the *eucatastrophe* of the story of the Incarnation. This story begins and ends in joy.

There is no tale ever told that people would rather find was true, and none which so many skeptical people have accepted as true on its own merits.

De Colores

A Message from Ruth Thomas, our DLD

Thank you one and all for your continuing prayers, love and support. I have finished my last chemo infusion and have recovered from the side effects. I give thanks that the side effects have been minimal. I have an appointment with my Oncologist on the 30th April to review my treatment. Then I move onto 3 weeks of preventative radiation in May, after MW36.

Although my time since the February Rainbow Connection has been treatment focused, I was delighted to attend the Ultreya at St Aiden's E. Launceston on 16th March. It was wonderful to hear Jo present such a strong Witness talk and hear the positive comments made by many. I really enjoyed the fellowship of other Cursillistas, a time to celebrate being together.

Thank you to everyone who assisted at the Ordination on Sat 24th Feb. It sounds like it was a wonderful day of celebration. My Oncologist had recommended that I avoid crowds and I guessed (rightly) that there was going to be an excellent number present at St David's for the Ordination and the refreshments. The team of Cursillistas who helped on the day included Luke Campton, Marg and Ian Headlam, Judy Maplestone, Margaret Brodie, Fiona Wilson, Chris Gibbons, Keir Steedman and Janet Stone. There may have been even more and so I apologise if I have inadvertently missed your name.

Applications for MW36 are due in by 18th April. I am looking forward to a flurry of forms to add to those already received.

The Welcome Day on May 25th at the Longford church Hall will be a time of celebration and joy as we worship together with the new Cursillistas from MW36. I hope that many of you will be able to attend.

The Ultreya on Sat 29th June at Edge Anglican, Claremont is shaping up to be another day of fellowship and joy in our combined worship of our loving God.

De Colores



Photos from the recent Ultreya

Cursillistas helping at the ordination

Shirley Tongue reports on the recent Ultreya

On March 16th, an enthusiastic group of Cursillistas gathered at St Aidan's, East Launceston, for a Diocesan Ultreya. There were representatives from 7 parishes from the north, south and north-west of the State. We enjoyed uplifting worship and warm fellowship. John Tongue was Spiritual Advisor for the day and brought us a thought-provoking meditation based on the day's theme: "My Father is the Gardener". We were deeply moved by our witness speaker, Jo Tevelein, as she spoke of the transforming power of the Holy Spirit as he led her to address long buried issues from her past. The floating Group Reunion provided an opportunity for reflection, discussion and prayer before we finished with communion. There is such joy when Cursillistas meet together - may I urge you to attend Ultreyas if you are able; your presence is a great encouragement to the rest of us.

PALANCA

Please prepare your Palanca for the upcoming MW36. 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

PLEASE PRAY for the team for MW36. May the Lord uphold and protect them; may the Spirit fill them with joy, love, strength and enthusiasm.

Greg Stanford (LC), Roger Hesketh & Jo Tevelein (SAs), Paul Dennis (Proctor), Margaret Brodie (musician), Jon & Margaret Hosford, Naomi Skeat, Stephen East, David Tilley, Heather & James Eaton, Monte (musician) & Kathy Mumford, Keir Steedman.

Dates for your 2004 Calendar

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

29th April - Last mail collection for Palanca

2nd-5th May 2024 MW36 Camp Clayton

25th May 2024 Ultreya in Longford to Welcome Day