

# RAINBOW CONNECTION

Anglican Cursillo Tasmania

April 2022

## A Reflection from the Diocesan Spiritual Advisor Lee Weissel

*'Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been rolled away from the tomb' John 20:1*

Thanks to God for the gift of family. Many of us have had the blessing of knowing our parents and grandparents, and so understand that we are part of a greater chain of being. This understanding is further defined if we have our own children, and indeed grandchildren. Our stories are passed down through these connections, telling us of our past, and helping us to dream about the future. When we understand that we are here for a time, then gone, it helps us to think about what are the stories that we need to keep telling, the stories that we steward so they do not become lost in time.

The story of Easter has been one of those that has been told and retold, so much in the past that it is embedded in our national calendar. It is a story of seeming brokenness (Good Friday) turned into a surprising victory (Easter Sunday). John 20 begins with a duty of caring, and ends with the transformation of resurrection. It is the story of reconciliation between God and humanity. It involves truth telling about who we truly are, away for the stories we might hide behind, and breaking silences on the uncomfortable things. We then can see how great the love of God is for us at Easter, by seeking to make us whole through the death and resurrection of Jesus. When we do this, we can start to walk in God's story anew.

When we embrace the story of Our Lord, we embrace Him in the Holy Spirit, having not only our own stories but our very selves transformed to be like Him, who loves us beyond measure, and who came and saved us. It also means that the our loved ones before us who died in the Lord, we will see again.

May this Easter be a blessing for you and your family, and may you rediscover the hope you have in the Risen Jesus.

De Colores, Lee



## COMBINED MEN'S & WOMEN'S 34 WEEKEND, March 10-13 2022

MW34 finally got under way, there were no Covid restrictions, even the mask wearing rule was no longer, which meant we could sing and talk to each other without the impediment of a face mask.

The weather was excellent which meant walks on the beach and swimming was possible. We joyfully sang De Colores to the marching band of Sarah on the guitar, David on the trumpet and Stephen on a recorder with the rooster hat aptly perched over his head, and finally, on Saturday night we were able to gather around the Firepit in the Hollows for a singalong and creative presentation of different tables for the day.

I was first time leader on the notoriously colourful but fully redeemed table of Rahab with Sarah Burton as co leader and Gwen Baily as gopher. Inter table rivalry was rife, but we were blessed with highly artistic participants that made creative and interactive times on the table very enjoyable. All three tables presented highly creative artwork on both days.

I went with a thankful heart for an incredible opportunity to serve my Lord, I went knowing I would encounter God over the weekend whether it was through palanca, conversations with team members and participants, and through the reflections by Warwick and Lesley during Eucharist.

Moreover, my prayers were answered, and I was able to use my voice, my fear of public speaking was replaced with a God given peace, I was also thankful for Margaret Brodie who encouraged me to play the piano, after a long absence of 35 years to play for a congregation, I was thankful for the opportunity to contribute to the music.

Finally, the Bishop Condie's sermon on the Wedding of Cana was my deepest encounter with our mighty God...I know I came home with Vintage Wine in parts of my spiritual life that were still carrying plain water.

Heartfelt thanks to our Lay Coordinator Kathryn Anderson and proctor Catherine Woodberry for their tireless contribution and what appeared to be a very smoothly and lovingly run weekend.

De Colores, Ruth Cox



### **A Message from Ruth Thomas, our DLD**

It has been a joyously busy Cursillo time since the February Rainbow Connection. The Blooming Church Flower Festival at the Cathedral Fri 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Feb. was a great success. Thank you to Marg Headlam who provided the wonderfully colourful plaster fruit to bear the names of the fruit of the Spirit and to Leone Paget and Susan Pearce who arranged all the donated flowers to create a work of art. The Even-song at the start of the festival was well attended and featured the Rev Christopher Waterhouse, who later attended MW34. The Overnight Training at Camp Clayton clashed with the Ordination at the Cathedral on Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Feb and so I missed out on seeing Christopher being priested because I was presenting the Group Dynamics session to the Team. It was reassuring to see the Team working together so well and know those attending the Weekend would be in good hands.

MW34 10-13<sup>th</sup> March at Camp Clayton had a team of 15 and 11 candidates. By the time David and I arrived before lunch on Friday for the official Weekend photo, the group seemed to have become a cohesive whole who were working creatively together on their posters. It was a privilege and delight to see. There was a good attendance by the 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community at Mañanita and the 9.30 am service at Holy Trinity Ulverstone. For those who attended the Regenerate Day it was an interesting new experience between the two main events of Mañanita and Clausura. The activities were the springboard for the worthwhile conversations that then took place around the tables. Clausura was well attended and the overwhelming consensus seemed to be a recognition of the amazing grace and generosity of God throughout the whole of MW34.

The Welcome Day on Sat 26<sup>th</sup> March was attended by 44 (including 2 visitors) with 20 apologies. The number of people fitted into the Longford Church Hall in a covid-safe way and we were able to take advantage of the sunshine to have a few Floating Group Reunions within the fenced outside area off the hall. Monte and Kathy Mumford did a magnificent job of their Witness Talk. Those present from MW34 spoke about their experiences and their faces lit up with the memories. I gladly announced that the LC for MW35 is Annette Sims. Planning is already underway for MW35 to be held at Blue Lagoon, Dodges Ferry on 27<sup>th</sup> April till 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023. The Communion service was a wonderful way to close the Welcome Day with us united in prayer.

During the drive home I was notified of my 101-year-old father's peaceful death in the Anglicare Nursing Home in Adelaide. Although it has been expected for the last 5 weeks it was still a 'surprise'. God's timing was perfect as the next day (27<sup>th</sup> March) was my parent's 79<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and I am sure Dad was happy to be reunited with Mum. My Cursillo family has surrounded me with love and prayers. Prompting me to think of Philippians 1:3 "I thank my God every time I remember you". It is an enduring joy to be involved with my sisters and brothers in Christ.

De Colores  
Ruth

### **FAREWELL TO GRACE ROGERS**

Grace Rogers, from W8 in 2000 (table of Ruth), went to be with God this week. Grace has been unwell for some time and was ready to go and be with our Father.

We thank You, Father, for the life of Grace, that she is now with You and we will see her again. We ask that You will comfort her husband Bernard, and all those who are mourning the loss of their friend and loved one.  
Amen

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die. John 11:25*

