

Diocesan Lay Directors Report
Waikato-Taranaki Anglican Cursillo

1 January 2023 - 31 December 2023

Waikato Taranaki Combined 17 (WTC17) Cursillo weekend.

This was the highlight of our year, held in New Plymouth under the guidance of Karen Wise on 6-9 July 2023. We announced the new Lay Director for WTC18, Heather Riches, and the venue to be St Peter's School in Cambridge 11-14 July 2024. WTC18 proved to be a very enriching time for all who attended, and we feel a strong movement of the Holy Spirit in the Waikato as a result. We are currently in the planning stages for WTC19 in 2025

Following the 2023 weekend, two Days of Deeper Understanding were held on 19 August, in Morrinsville and Inglewood, to further explore what it means to be a Cursillista (person who has been to Cursillo). There was a chance for all who attended WTC18 to get together again at the Day of Deeper Understanding in Te Awamutu on 10 August 2024 - all this to further the work of the church and equip ordinary people to do the work necessary to build up the church. .

We have a new pamphlet - Cursillo Partners, outlining how folks can donate to Cursillo so that we can continue to run weekends and support our lay people in their work in the church.

In addition to attending a weekend, those who have attended, meet regularly in small local groups called Group Reunions for prayer and discussion. To this end, we have compiled a list of all groups and any one is welcome to attend. Four or five times a year these groups meet together at an Ultreya (a Spanish word meaning Onward and Upward) for further sharing and encouragement.

Ultreyas

In 2023, we held five Ultreyas around the diocese - 18 March in Katikati, 1 April in Stratford, 9 September in Otorohanga, 11 Nov in Waitara and 18 November in TeAwamutu

Secretariat

We had eight members of the Secretariat at the beginning of 2023 but sadly, four people resigned for various reasons.. One was our treasurer, Robin Stanford who has been succeeded by Murray Gardiner, and another was Rev Brendan Gibbs who has been succeeded by Rev Rosie Dell. We had five secretariat meetings via Zoom on 9 February, 8 June, 27 July and 2 November. One Face to Face meeting was held on 9 September in Otorohanga.

Before a person can attend a weekend, they need a sponsor. The old pamphlet Sponsoring has been given a new name Companionship or Kaitautoko, meaning one who walks alongside.

One of our secretariat members, Ariel McCracken, has been actively sending greetings all over the world for Cursillo weekends. As a result of this, we have received greetings in return for our weekends. We have met with members from Nottingham and Peterborough via zoom. This further emphasizes the fact that Cursillo is a worldwide movement.

During the second part of the year, one of our members instigated a promotion campaign to promote Cursillo to Taranaki churches. It was successful in that more parishioners became aware of Cursillo through personal testimonies, but the most effective way to spread the news still remains personal contact.

We are really grateful to Bishop Philip for promoting Cursillo throughout the Diocese. We would like to see clergy encouraging Lay people to become involved in Cursillo, especially in parishes where there are no people who have attended Cursillo and no regular priest. Although Cursillo is a Lay movement, we need the partnership of Clergy to support and promote the course, to develop leadership skills within the diocese. As one wise Cursillista once said having attended a weekend, "It is not what the church can do for you, but what YOU can do for the church."

We feel God is growing the church through Cursillo - especially in the Waikato. We look forward to you all being part of what God is doing in our Diocese. These are exciting times.

Onwards and Upwards

Anita Walthew

Waikato-Taranaki Diocesan Lay Director

15 August 2024