

Fourth Bridge



August 2022



John 4:1-26. "Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."



EPISCOPAL CURSILLO® IN SCOTLAND Reg. US Pat. Office Affiliated to B.A.C.C.



From Sally
Lay Director

Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that there is just over a month until Cursillo 69. Cat and the team have been working hard throughout the summer preparing rollos and all the myriad of tasks which are involved in putting on a successful Cursillo. Elsewhere in this magazine you will find details of team and participants. Please do continue to pray for us in these final weeks of preparation and through the Cursillo itself.

Ahead of us is not only Cursillo 69, but just the weekend before is Ultreya UK, the national Cursillo gathering, this year being held in London. We will meet on the steps of St Paul's Cathedral and process with banners via the Millennium Bridge to Southwark Cathedral for an Ultreya, lunch and a Celebratory Eucharist. Do come and join me and help carry the banner for Scotland! These UK wide gatherings are always very special and are open to all, you can still sign up on the booking form at: <https://www.anglicancursillo.co.uk> Also on this link you will find the most recent copy of BACC pages the magazine for Cursillo in the UK.

I have been very encouraged over the past months by the enthusiasm which people have taken on tasks when asked, and particular thanks as always go to the Secretariat members. Now that the pandemic is becoming something which we have learned to accommodate and our lives are returning to a degree of normality, we hope that we will once again be able to have more face-to-face events and meetings. Secretariat is like a management group who oversee the big picture; Servant Community are groups of members who want to work together to further Cursillo activities within the province - both are essential for the smooth running of our wonderful Cursillo movement.

Our AGM is in **Perth on the 29th October**, there will be an Ultreya and Eucharist too. Please do come and help to make this both a joyous gathering of Cursillo in Scotland and an effective annual meeting where ideas are shared, and plans made. It is hoped to appoint a new Lay Director at this meeting, we also need to appoint a Secretary to replace Duncan McCosh and a new 4th Day Coordinator as Morag O'Neill steps down. Please contact either David Dalglish or I if you are willing to volunteer for either role.

The occasion is not just a meeting, but a Cursillo Celebration!



It is attended by people from all over Scotland. It takes place just over a month after Cursillo 69 so is another chance to gather together and renew friendships. I do look forward to seeing many of you there.

Before then is Cursillo 69:

Remember how it felt when you arrived at your Cursillo, perhaps feeling rather apprehensive, to be greeted by smiling faces who quickly became friends and a community?

Remember hearing those talks and realising that people were speaking, not of some imaginary or historic events, but of their own lives and experience?

Remember the joy of being part of a worshipping community living and praying together?

Remember when you were given your bag of Palanca and began to realise just how many people were praying for you?

Remember going into the church for the Closing service and the wall of sound which built as the doors opened?

Remember seeing friendly faces who had come just for you?

Remember when you found there was more, and you realised that it wasn't all over ...?

I'm looking forward to seeing and experiencing all of these things with you at Kinnoull next month.

ULTREYA

Sally



PROVINCIAL ULTREYA AND AGM

Threshold Centre Perth Saturday 29th October

Please pop this date in your diary

- **Arrive 10.00 for 10.30am start**
- **Bring and share lunch**
- **We will end the day with the Eucharist**



**From Revd David Dalglish
Provincial Spiritual Director**

WE ARE BLESSED BY BEING ANCHORED TO THE ROCK THAT IS GOD

As a former proud member of the Boys Brigade, through Life Boys (I am giving away my age by that statement), Boys Brigade itself and then as an officer leading the Junior Section one of the constants in my life has been the Brigade hymn, 'We have an anchor.' As I reflect on that journey and my journey through life, I am drawn to the passage in 2nd Samuel, Chapter 22, starting at Verse 2, which reads as follows:

'The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer, my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation. He is my stronghold, my refuge, and my saviour –'

If I and I am sure all of you have ever needed that assurance more, it has been over the last two years as we lived through the pandemic and all that it threw at us. We were suddenly thrust into isolation either as families, couples, or individuals, we were cut off from all that was normal life as we were used to living it, our very freedom was curtailed. Some of us were lucky enough to live in the country where we could freely walk and breathe in God's wonderful world, others were stuck in the inner city and if you were very unlucky you lived in an inner-city tower block. I even experienced the surreal, when a member of my football club's community support group phoned me up to see if I was coping. She lived in the 14th floor of a tower block in Aberdeen, after assuring her that we were coping, my comment was that I should be phoning her to offer my support and not the other way round.

As the Cursillo community we missed that physical contact that coming together in person to share our worship and our thoughts and prayers. However, for some of us we were able to come together via Zoom and throughout support was provided by telephone and letter.

Can you imagine what it was like for those who did not have their rock to fall back on, those who were unable to lean back on God their Father and friend. Throughout this whole pandemic, he was my rock and my anchor, and he enabled me to come out the other side. I did not emerge unscathed, for it made me reevaluate life's priorities and make God at the very centre of my life, another step on my journey of faith.

From the Message we read,

'God is not a secret to be kept.' (Matthew 5:14),

if Cursillo is to be a vehicle for the renewal of the church, then we all need to be evangelists, we need to share the secret of God with all whom we meet, we need to give them an opportunity to anchor their lives to the rock that is God. Again, we read in the Message,

'Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God.' (Matthew 5:16)

As we continue on our personal journey of faith and on our community journey, let us go forward in the secure knowledge that we are firmly anchored to a rock, that rock is God and it's a secret we need to share with others, indeed we need to shout it from the rooftops!



That we are firmly anchored to a rock...

I have mentioned before, how I love it when the articles that arrive for the magazine seem to have a theme flowing through them and indeed once again it appears to have happened. The image on the front page from Pauline Jones, provides an enlightening illustration for the words that David has written above. Pauline describes settling to prayer and Duncan from Aberdeen talks about silent prayer. I hope as you read on, you will be able to reflect on their words and be uplifted that the Holy Spirit is working in this place... and the action for this season... a hugging spot (Page 8). Definitely something we could all do with.

Thank you to everyone for all your contributions.

Helen Robinson would like to tell us about the music of Paul Field. Paul writes songs dealing with current issues and reflects on our Christian response in his words. One of his hymns is in the Song Book; *'Lord Make me a Mountain'*.



Paul is a great friend of Helen's, and he is possibly available for performances. If you are responsible for music or worship at all then perhaps you might like this recommendation of Helen's and search further for his music. Get in touch with Helen for further information. (Thank you to Helen for also providing the Immigrants Creed on the back page).

Cursillo #69

Notes from the Team

There are 15 team members and 12 participants for Cursillo #69

Practically taken all the rooms at Kinnoull!

Thank you all for your prayers



Palanca for Cursillo # 69 should be sent to:-

Jenny Wright (Head Gofor)
% St Mary's Monastery and Retreat
Centre,
Hatton Road,
Kinnoull,
Perth,
PH2 7BP

To arrive by Wednesday 7th September 2022

Please remember that palanca is a prayer of encouragement. If you wish to give gifts please give them in person when they return.

Please label Palanca with name including surname. If you are sending second day Palanca please label it 2nd day.

If you could send it in alphabetical order by surname and separated into team and participants that would be very helpful.

Palanca can also be handed to team members before they leave.

Thank you
Jenny Wright



Wake up

We look forward to the arrival of sponsors for

Wake up!

Wake up is at 7am. **Sponsors to arrive at 6.45am.**

Kinnoull is happy that sponsors join the group for breakfast but to assist with catering, please let Cat Oustram know if you intend to take advantage of this offer.

Closing Service 3pm on Sunday 11th September

- We would appreciate some discreet help in setting the church up for the closing Sunday Service.
- Or if you can stay at the end of the gathering to help clear up, the Team would be really grateful.
- Arrive early if you are able to help with preparations (2pm)
- Please park (quietly !) in the lane or before you get to the church , car sharing if possible.
- Also some home baking or shop bought cakes would be very welcome for our afternoon tea.



Remember to keep us up to date

Please, if you have Cursillistas in your congregation or local area who do not use email, please keep them in touch with what is going on. Email is the most efficient form of communication although Fourth Bridge is still posted to those who have requested it. If you would like a paper copy, please get in touch with Margaret. magazine@cursilloinScotland.org



A simple chalk drawing on the High Street pavement outside St Augustine's Church in Dumbarton has people calling the small but vibrant congregation, the "**Hugging Church**".

What a powerful message "Hug here", said one of our neighbours.

I witnessed a young couple strolling with their little girl in her pram stopping and I heard the man saying, "Why not?" as he drew his wife/partner into a warm hug.



There were reports that throughout the day people passing by stopped and shared a laugh and a hug.

On Sunday, following the main Service, St Augustine's parishioners hugged on the "Hugging Spot" taking pictures to share with family and friends and post on social media.

Who knows? A simple gesture such as a hug can be the start of something that all of Dumbarton can be a part of. Perhaps the "Hugging Spot" outside St Augustine's could be the beginning of a greater story, our local people experiencing a hug from our loving God.

Ultreya!

Heller.



**What has caught
your attention
today?
(Pauline Jones)**



For many of us, understandably, our attention is focused on the big things life often throws at us on a day-to-day basis. Yet, sometimes, almost out of the blue, something at the edge of our vision catches our attention. How often when that happens do we engage with it and with God?

We have a water feature which has followed us around over the years. Carefully deconstructed and then reconstructed in every new location, water flows over a large, predominantly slate rock, given to us by friends, which forms the centrepiece of our water feature. One morning wanting to spend some one-to-one time with God and wondering where to start, the water feature caught my eye. Over the years, I have learnt when this happens, it's best to pay attention. So, I drew up a garden chair and sat quietly contemplating our water feature!

Deciding I wanted to start with the Bible, I looked up the words in John 4:14 [Amplified Bible] where Jesus tells the bemused Samaritan woman

“whoever drinks the water I give him will never be thirsty again. But the water I give him will become in him a spring of water [satisfying his thirst in God] welling up [continually flowing, bubbling within him] to eternal life.”

Maybe this was where God wanted me to start my contemplation? After all, the water in our water feature bubbles up through the rock, even forming part of an ecosystem for small birds and lichens.

Perhaps it was more about what was powering the water pump? It is solar powered and so, dependent on the sun for power, the water only flows when it's sunny. My thoughts meandered on, wondering why it was our familiar water feature which had suddenly caught my attention?

Eventually, my focus turned to the rock itself. A rock which has to "do" nothing but simply exist. Its very existence reflecting light into the eyes of all who gaze upon it. As does the water which flows over the rock surface enhancing its natural beauty as it does so. Where exactly did this rock originate and what is it made of? The simple answer to the latter is mud, but being a physicist, for me the answer to the former lies in the origin of the atoms from which it is made. Where did the atoms in the mud come from? Stars is the answer scientists will give you. Ask them where the atoms in our bodies come from and you will get the same answer!

For some, the theology of this may be a problem, but as a physicist to recognise that God has somehow chosen to form me and this rock using atoms from exploding star, felt quite humbling. Taking things a few steps further, irrespective of personal theologies, this rock and I have our ultimate origins in the mind of God. So maybe I should have started with Colossians 1:16-17 instead? *"For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together."*

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GOOD NEWS from Aberdeen/ Aberdeenshire.

We had our first face to face Ultreya since lock down, there were 7 of us there, it was just so good to be in each other's company again. Hopefully this is just the start. We have another meeting arranged for the [23rd of August](#).



Duncan did the Action Talk on 'Silent Prayer' and included this poem; we had a great discussion about it.

*Late have I loved you, beauty ever old yet ever new! Late have I loved you!
You were within me, but I was outside.
There I sought you, as I rushed among the beautiful things you had made.
You were within me, but I was NOT with you.
The beautiful things of this world kept me far from you.
You called. You cried.
You burst through my deafness. You scattered my blindness.
I breathed in your fragrance, now I pine for you.
I tasted you, and I hunger and thirst for you.
You touched me, and I burn with desire for your peace.*

Our prayers are very much for 'the best ever weekend', at
Weekend 69 for Team and Participants

Brenda and Duncan

Website: In the last issue of the magazine, we mentioned that we were aware that our website needs a makeover. Caroline Delaney recommended a template for us to use, however due to personal and work commitments Caroline has had to step down from being responsible for the Website. We are extremely grateful to Caroline for taking us this far and we have decided to use Caroline's suggestion for our new Cursillo website. We plan to meet after Cursillo 69 to begin the challenge of updating the website and are delighted to announce that we have someone who has the skills we need to help us take this forward. More details of who this person is will follow in due course.

We wish Caroline all the best for the work she is doing within her own congregation.

THE IMMIGRANTS CREED

by Jose Luis Casal

I believe in Almighty God, who guided the people in exile and in exodus, the God of Joseph in Egypt and Daniel in Babylon, the God of foreigners and immigrants.

I believe in Jesus Christ, a displaced Galilean, who was born away from his people and his home, who fled his country with his parents when his life was in danger. When he returned to his own country he suffered under the oppression of Pontius Pilate, the servant of a foreign power. Jesus was persecuted, beaten, tortured, and unjustly condemned to death. But on the third day Jesus rose from the dead, not as a scorned foreigner but to offer us citizenship in God's kingdom.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the eternal immigrant from God's kingdom among us, who speaks all languages, lives in all countries, and reunites all races.

I believe that the Church is the secure home for foreigners and for all believers.

I believe that the communion of saints begins when we embrace all God's people in all their diversity. I believe in forgiveness, which makes us all equal before God, and in reconciliation, which heals our brokenness.

I believe that in the Resurrection God will unite us as one people in which all are distinct and all are alike at the same time.

I believe in life eternal, in which no one will be foreigner but all will be citizens of the kingdom where God reigns forever and ever.

Amen

*By Rev. Jose Luis Casal, General Presbyter in the Presbytery of Tres Rios of the
Presbyterian Church (USA)*