

Oh Wings
Oh Wings
Oh Wings



Like Eagles

'Those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar like eagles.' Isaiah 40.31

**Anglican Cursillo
Movement – Southern
Queensland Diocese**

www.cursillo-brisbane.com

**February 2026
EASTER EDITION**



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The Bible is full of beginnings; not only the universal one, when God speaks into existence the elements of a stunning cosmos, but other beginnings as well. Thus, the human race begins with Adam and Eve and begins again after the flood with Noah and his family. In old age, Abraham answers the invitation of God to go away from home and begin anew.

Every year I feel as if Australia Day is a beginning as well. A beginning that the new year truly starts...all office and business owners are fully back at work and operating and the school year begins. Australia starts to buzz again. January is a low-key month in most parishes and in February, most parishes begin to buzz again and get stuck into ministry.

Some of the beginnings in the Bible are known as “call stories”. A “call story” details how someone was invited by God to begin something new and unexpected. God calls this person to begin, and not only to begin, but – and here’s the hard part – to persevere, to persevere so that another beginning can take place.

Cursillo is beginning to buzz again! The first back table training day for #84 has taken place. The team is set and training dates set. Ultreyas are planned and I pray if you haven’t been able to attend an Ultreya in a while you might manage one or more this year. It maybe the reset - the new beginning you need.

One day Andrew and Simon, James and John get up when the sky is still dark, walk down to the sea, and toss nets into the water, expecting a catch of fish. It is a day like so many other days. Nothing special. These men have participated in this same routine hundreds of times before. This is what they do, for they are fishermen. Jesus turns up at the shoreline. Today, as he calls them, a beginning takes place. He looks at these working men with their nets and their hard-won catch, and proclaims, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Like every other “call story” in the Bible, this one is an adventure. An adventure is something that comes to us, that chooses us. Discipleship is the great adventure, for the one who comes to us and chooses us is great beyond all measure. We are taken away from conventional lives, thrust into an adventure.

Are these men – Andrew, Simon, James, and John – ready and equipped for the adventure that comes to them, that chooses them, this adventure of discipleship? Jesus at the shoreline does not collect resumes; he does not check references. The personal histories of these four do not have the last word about their futures. Christ’s call means a new beginning. He takes a wide-open risk by inviting them. They do the same in their reply. They leave behind old sanctuaries: the shoreline, the boat, the nets, those days of fishing that so resembled one another, and even old Zebedee, the father of James and John. The new beginning requires this. Disciples must walk away into the future. They may be afraid, but not so afraid that their faith does not lead them forward. The Bible tells us of this beginning for the four fishermen. They are called out from their profession about which they know a great deal, in order to fish for people, about which they claim no knowledge. In the same way, our discipleship means a new beginning, one that appears before us again and again. We keep experiencing the end of safety so that we may take part in a new world. We find ourselves engaged in an adventure, for however surprisingly, however unduly, Christ comes to us and chooses us and sends us out to be the next new beginning in the world.

Where will your new beginning be?

Rev Pauline Harley



Happy 2026 to all Cursillistas in Southern Queensland!...

.....and happy 41st year to CURSILLO in Cursillo Southern Queensland! Looking back over the decades, there have been so many dedicated Cursillistas, whether in teams or working in Secretariat and Diocesan Servant Community/ies and I am amazed at their energy and commitment to the Cursillo movement. Even today, there are Cursillistas from the early years of Cursillo, continuing to meet for Group Reunions.

You may know John Corcut from Warwick who held countless team and Secretariat roles, and was Servant Community Leader in 2019. John is now retired and living life in the country, yet he is assisting us in a huge way. He has been updating every manual, procedure, script, appendix, etc, from ACMA and is now constructing the Lay Director's Script for our 2-day weekend, using the tracking sheet developed for #83 last year. Thank you John. The alterations apply to the 2-day weekend and all materials for a 3-day weekend remain intact for use in future possible 3-day weekends or separate men's and women's weekends. We aim to keep Cursillo authentic and only God knows the future for Cursillo. Another couple of wonderful Cursillistas who are working outside of Secretariat are Sally Turnbull and Mary Nicholls, from Chinchilla. They are busily coordinating the 'Tagalong' Pilgrimage to Mitchell in May. As country girls, both Sally and Mary are dedicated to keeping the connections alive for all Cursillistas from the coast to the border. Thank you both for this mammoth effort. We will hear more details soon, so look out for that information.

I'd like to sincerely thank our current Secretariat for their dedication and acknowledge those who have completed their 3-year commitment. Margaret Peterson has retired as Secretary and Gay Clark will be stepping down as Editor of OWLE this year. Thank you, ladies, for doing an excellent job and I look forward to meeting new people taking up your spots on Secretariat.

*I know this feeling, do you?*If you feel unqualified for roles, either on team or at Secretariat level, just remember that **“the Lord does not call the qualified, he qualifies the called”** – this is exactly the case that many Cursillistas have experienced as they step up to serve on teams, or take positions on Servant Community or Secretariat – myself included. I never considered that one day I would even be on Secretariat, much less doing the role of Diocesan Lay Director. I enjoy doing this role and meeting so many passionate Cursillistas in our parishes. However, the future of Cursillo in Southern Queensland will need other people to carry the torch. I, like others of our Secretariat who are beyond our three-year commitment to the role will need 'new blood' to take over. Cursillo is too valuable a ministry to allow it to fade away. This has been the case in too many dioceses that are unable to field a Secretariat and then go into recess. We are strong but only as strong as those committed to furthering the wonderful Cursillo movement into the future.

★ Congratulations to all Parish Contacts continuing to pass Cursillo information to their members, you are the linch pin to our communications, supporting and connecting us all together. If you have any Cursillistas who do not receive emails from Alan Gray or me, please ask them to give Alan their email. I understand from some contacts that they print off communications for those who do not have or 'do' emails. Thank you for going the extra distance.

My prayer for you is that 2026 will empower and sustain you in your personal, family, church and Cursillo involvement. I also pray for other Cursillistas to step up and use their God given skills to keep our flame burning brightly.

Marg Carr – Diocesan Lay Director.

REMINDER ABOUT CONTRIBUTIONS

Are you up to date with your contributions?

Contributions can be made by Electronic Funds Transfer, BPoint online payment facility, or cheque or money order using the form below.

Remember to email the Treasurer, Ann Martin-Victor, advising of your payment so that record keeping accuracy can be upheld. Also notify of any changes to your contact details eg. address, email address, mobile number etc.

Please mail the form to the Treasurer, (not the Database Coordinator or Editor).
Please help us maintain accurate records by including all information on the form.
Note: the name of the Parish is required, not the name of the church.

Many thanks
Ann Martin-Victor
Treasurer

Cursillo Treasurer
PO Box 9265
Wynnum Plaza Qld 4178

Contact details for Ann, Cursillo Treasurer: email: cursillo_sq@bigpond.com mobile: 0407 029 989

Thank you for your generous donations towards the Love Offering of **\$387.25** at Robina.

Voluntary Annual Contribution

Suggested contribution is \$20 per Cursillista

Payment Options:

Made payable to Anglican Cursillo Movement Brisbane.

- Electronic Funds Transfer: BSB: 704 901 Account: 00002640 (please note your name/s and what the deposit is for).
- BPoint online payment facility: refer to the Contributions tab on Cursillo Brisbane website <https://cursillo-brisbane.com>
- Cheques, Money Orders: mail to Cursillo Treasurer, details above
- Please DON'T send cash in the mail

If you make an online contribution or donation, please send an email to our Treasurer, Ann, for confirmation purposes.

Please note that some personal details are recorded in a database in accordance with the Brisbane Cursillo Privacy Statement

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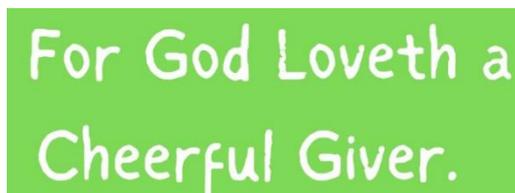
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Parish Email

Phone Number Mobile



Ann Martin-Victor
Treasurer





Message from The Editor

The year has already begun to fly by and we are in Lent! This is my last issue. I was to be decommissioned at the Southern Gold Coast Ultreya but was forced to attend via Vimeo. What a great opportunity when we couldn't go in person!

I am thrilled to be able to tell you that Marilyn Hockaday has agreed to take over as editor of OWLE. Marilyn worships at Waterloo Bay, and before she retired, was a teacher librarian for many years. She is an asset in our parish and to our local Cursillo group and I know she will bring her own style to our magazine. Thank you so much Marilyn. I look forward to your first issue. I have enjoyed being your editor but after 3 years, I'm sure OWLE will benefit from the change. Don't forget to share with Marilyn any new projects or good news you have.



In this my last issue, the articles are encouraging you to embrace new beginnings. From Rev Pauline referring the Bible "call stories" and Diocesan Lay Director Marg's prayer for all of us to step up and use our time and talents to fan the flames of Cursillo. The number of Ultreyas planned for this year makes it plain that Cursillo is certainly on fire! Perhaps you have even been feeling the gentle nudge to offer yourself to fill a role on Secretariat..... With training under way for #84, this is your chance to heed the word of Rev Marilyn Cullen and sponsor a friend to do Cursillo. This could be their new beginning!

Cryssi Flynn's article about how the Wynnum Cursillistas are living their Fourth Day is inspirational and it is wonderful that they are such a blessing to their community.

Being in Lent, I have included some Easter traditions and possible Christian plays to enhance your Easter services. Maybe you can initiate new traditions.

Rob and I will be in New Zealand for 6 weeks, so will miss the Bundaberg Ultreya. Perhaps we will find an Ultreya to visit in NZ.

May your Lenten studies prepare you well for Easter and bring new insights as you continue on your fourth day.

De Colores, Gay

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M 0408 207 458



Edition	Cut-off Date for Articles	Email/Publish Date
Winter Edition 2026 June	25 th May	4 th June
Spring Edition 2025 September	31 st August	10 th September
Christmas Edition 2025 December	27 th November	7 th December
Lent/Easter Edition 2026 March	18 th February	28 th February



Diocesan Servant Community Report by Nick Crisp

As I write this, I am again on the estuary of the Snowy River. This time I am here to help look after my newly-widowed mother, and my focus is here. Jen & I had a quick trip back to Brisbane for a meeting with Bishop John (Jan. 22), Back Table Training (Jan 24) and parish duties (Jan 25), returning to Marlo 26-27. My Dad died on the morning of the 25th (age 97) surrounded by family and some pretty amazing nursing staff in Orbost Hospital.

So far it has been a very quiet start to 2026 in Diocesan Servant Community. (Perhaps I was overly optimistic about the Team availability over the Christmas period?)

It was my turn to create a Prayer Diary for Back Table Training (January 24). When I left my run too late for vetting and distribution, Jen came to the rescue. The search for something physical to back up our prayers for the Back Table Training crew turned up in a wonderful, framed poster of a group of painted emu caricatures. I presented this after my "DSC Presentation", for James and Peter to share. Just being amongst the Team when my Dad was in his final hours on earth was quite something. Thanks be to God.

Greg (Bundy West) provided the Robina/Mermaid Beach Ultreya prayer-diary in a timely manner, and Marg (as usual) brought it up to standard for you all with a flourish of graphical talent! Last evening Rev. Andrew Cooper, formerly our Manly Parish Priest, was commissioned in Newcastle Diocese. Although not a Cursillista, he has been a wonderful supporter of our Cursillo endeavours at Manly and will be greatly missed.

Servant Community will again hold an "Infotainment" stall at Synod (Saturday 27 June). Everyone is welcome to be part of the team there – all you need to bring is your passion for Cursillo.

The DSC Team has yet to get our heads together to discern our aspirations for 2026, with a meeting scheduled for Monday 16 Feb. (3rd Monday each month, Zoom, 7:30pm for ~ one hour). Please consider joining our little band, even if you know you will not be able to attend all meetings.

We remain as always, ready to assist the Movement in whatever ways we can. I give thanks to God for the Cursillo Movement which sustains me.

Pre-Cursillo Report by Dianne Catto



I hope you all had a blessed Christmas and New Year filled with family and friends as we did.

The upcoming Cursillo is scheduled for August 2026. We are excited to share that we already have one applicant confirmed and are looking forward to receiving more applications in the coming months. The team is preparing to ensure a meaningful and enriching experience for all participants. So please seek out candidates in your parish. We encourage continued prayer and support as we anticipate a successful and spirit-filled Cursillo #84.

POST CURSILLO REPORT by Marg Carr

Until we have a person in the role of Post Cursillo, this very important role has been managed informally by a combination of Peter Victor, Ann Martin-Victor and myself. It will be good to have someone in charge of this vital portfolio.

I'd like to thank Peter and Ann for their organisation in ensuring that the Parish Contacts and other key parish figures have someone to assist with planning, etc for their Ultreyas. Peter ensures that Parish Contacts have the guidelines, etc for their Ultreyas and also that they send advertising materials to him for distribution. Ann is working with both Hervey Bay and Carindale for their Ultreyas.

All Ultreyas and the pilgrimage are on track with very enthusiastic leaders in place.



MITCHELL TAGALONG – PILGRIMAGE 22-24 MAY 2026

Join us "ON OUR WAY". This Pilgrimage is OPEN TO EVERYONE IN YOUR PARISH even if they haven't attended a Cursillo or Emmaus Weekend.

BIBLE VERSE PROVERBS 3:5-6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways, acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

THEME SONG: "GOD WILL MAKE A WAY" by Don Moen.

We'll start at Clifton on Friday 22nd with lunch 11:30am then head to Goondiwindi for dinner at the Bowls Club and an overnight stay. On Saturday, we'll drive to St George for morning tea then on to Mitchell for lunch and our overnight stay. After lunch there will be an Ultreya. We will be treated to a Camp Oven Dinner in their church grounds, and then Compline. On Sunday morning, we'll join the saints in Mitchell for church at 8:30am followed by morning tea.

BRING YOUR FRIENDS, DRIVE YOUR CAR or HOP ON A BUS!

Motels have been tentatively booked by Sally Turnbull, in Goondiwindi - Rivergums Caravan Park, Macintyre Motor Inn & Gunsynd Motor Inn; and in Mitchell - Mitchell Motel and Cabins. When you book in, please quote "Pilgrimage 2026" and replace Sally's name with your own.

Meals: Please bring your own breakfast and afternoon teas. Meals need to be paid for up front when you book your tickets: 3 x Lunches, 2 x Dinners, 2 Morning Teas will be catered – total price is \$120 per person. Extra \$ 20-\$30 for Sunday Lunch at Mt Abundance Homestead near Roma.

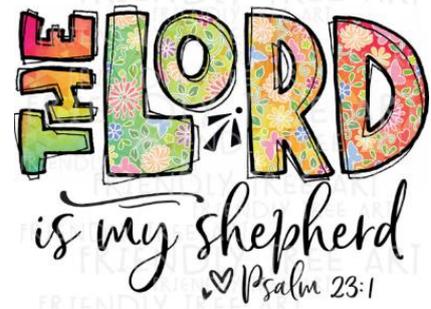
Buses will be available (Prices coming soon)

More Information coming Soon.

Please contact Sally Turnbull ASAP to register your interest
Pilgrimage Organizer

PH:0457 820 068 *Onwards and forwards!*

Musings from James Pula #84 Lay Director



I didn't even know that I was chosen to lead our #84 in August until I received the call from Marg Carr. I hadn't even contemplated such a thing. I said, "Thank you, but I have to think and pray about it." Marg suggested a few options – one of which was to have a co-lay director. **That** was a light bulb moment. My Christian brother, Peter Harley and I have been buddies since our Cursillo weekend in 2013 at The Southport School and I chose him as my co-lay director. Then we created a WhatsApp group with Rev Pauline Harley. We can be in contact instantly, sharing information. Already, we have contacted prospective team members and spiritual advisors. While we have had a few negative responses, God has smoothed the way with willing team members and we are excited.

The theme for #84 came quickly for me – The Lord is my shepherd. This saying has been my focus since my fourth day began in the community of kids with trauma and complex needs. I had no doubt what the theme song would be either – Seek Ye first the Kingdom of God. Peter & I pray every time we chat on the phone three times a week before we update our plans and our "to do" list. I have borrowed the team prayer from Archbishop Jeremy.

Weekend Theme: 'TH3 LORD 1S MY SH3PH3RD' (3 represents the Trinity, 1 reminds us of 1 God)

Team Song: 'Seek Ye First The Kingdom Of God'

Team Prayer: 'Merciful God, teach us to be faithful in change and in uncertainty, that trusting in your word and obeying your will we may enter the unfailing joy of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.'

Please pray for all #84 Team members: James Pula, Peter Harley, Sandy Whybird, Rev Sue Barker, Rev Gary Tognola, Rev Jon Brook, Sandy Lee, Dallas Turnbull, Allan Zirbel, Samuel Kurien, Barry Cathcart, Greg Blundel, Leonard Strub, Marilyn Pappas, Sheena Laporta, Shelley Coulson, Susan Cruickshank, Ros Crank & Michelle Baumgartner..

#84 Back Table Training

Back Table training for #84 with Rev Sue Barker on Zoom was held at St Mark's Anglican Church, Daisy Hill. Rev Pauline explained how the Holy Spirit will guide and direct team members through the



complexities of meeting the needs of the whole team and candidates. Thanks to Nick, Mark, Allan and Pauline for coming to present to this wonderful team.



SPONSORSHIP

As a Cursillista can you remember who your sponsor was?

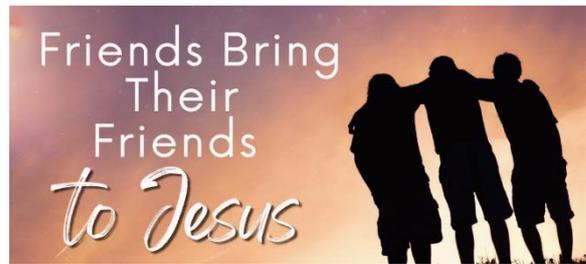
I was very fortunate in 1991 as my sponsor was a dear friend and member of my parish of Saint Barnabas at Sunnybank - Sheila Hill. Her encouragement and prayerful support were vital to my whole Cursillo weekend.

Faithful, diligent, constant prayerful discernment is so important to the whole process of the Cursillo experience. Being well prepared by a sponsor who enables the candidate to have a healthy expectation of God's unfolding purpose for their Cursillo journey, is imperative. Many parish group reunions often sponsor members of their parish by supportive encouragement and if needed financial assistance.

After my Cursillo, I was welcomed into a weekly group reunion led by my sponsor in her home. We met for a shared breakfast. The members of that group remain dear soul friends, who have maintained a truly deep connection over the years.

It has been a joy to sponsor others to attend their own Cursillo and receive the blessing of sharing God's boundless love as expressed by the community of believers. Is God calling you to be a prayerful supportive friend to sponsor someone?

De Colores
Rev. Marilyn Cullen



Blessings for Chinchilla by Sally Turnbull

2026 has started well at St Cecilia's Anglican Church in Chinchilla. While we still have no resident priest, we have a new warden leading our church family into a new future and 2 priests who have been taking services and they are Cursillistas! We even have a new sign!



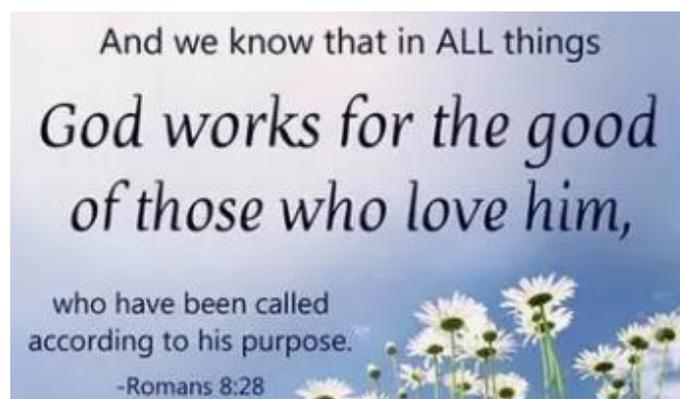
Revd. Ross & Val Ellwood have been travelling to Chinchilla from Wyreema to provide a Holy Communion Service on the second Sunday of every month. On this Sunday, the people from the Lutheran and Uniting Churches join us for fellowship and morning tea. The photo at left shows Rev Ross presenting Cursillista Mary Nicholls with her LA License.

Dr Fr Mike Nixson works in our community and sometimes takes a Saturday night service and two Sunday services a month.

In good community spirit, we attend the Lutheran church on the first Sunday of the month and the Uniting Church on the fifth Sunday. Praise God!



DATE	EVENT	VENUE	THEME	CONTACT NAME
MARCH 14	BUNDABERG WEST	Church of the Good Shepherd <i>203 George St, Bundaberg West</i>	A Grateful Heart	Bill Lawrence
MARCH 21	PLANNING DAY	All Saints Anglican <i>144 Brisbane Rd, Booval</i>		Marg Carr
MAY 9	MORETON DEANERY	St Gabriel's <i>11 Bridgnorth St, Carindale</i>		Melvis Mole?
MAY 22-24	MITCHELL 'TAGALONG' PILGRIMAGE	Finishing at All Saints' Mitchell , 30 Oxford St, Mitchell		Sally Turnbull & Mary Nichols
JUNE 26 - 28	SYNOD	Churchie Grammar School		Nick Crisp
JULY 25	HERVEY BAY	St John's Hervey Bay <i>2 Gilston Rd, Wondunna QLD 4655</i>		
AUGUST 21-23	#84 AT COOLUM	Luther Heights – Coolum Beach	TH3 LORD 1S MY SH3PH3RD	James Pula Peter Harley
SEPTEMBER 12/13.	CHINCHILLA	St Cecilia's <i>56 Middle St, Chinchilla</i>		Sally Turnbull
SEPTEMBER 19	FOLLOW UP DAY	HTK Anglican <i>11 Meridian St, Bokarina</i>		Marg Carr
OCTOBER 10	PENINSULA	Church of the Risen Christ. <i>43 Park Rd, Deception Bay</i>		Doug and Kris Frith
OCTOBER 16, 17, 18	NATIONAL SECRETARIAT MEETING	Cleveland Comfort Inn		Marg Carr
NOVEMBER 14	DIOCESAN ULTREYA	St Matthew's <i>648/650 Sherwood Rd, Sherwood</i>		Gerald Shannon



Easter Traditions



Dyeing Easter Eggs Red

In Greece, those who celebrate Easter through the Orthodox church forego the typical mix of colours when it comes time to dye eggs, instead focusing on a singular shade: red.

The crimson-hued eggs are doubly symbolic since they use the eggs to represent rebirth and the colour red for Jesus' blood, marking the triumphant return of the son of God.

Eggs Decorated Using Wax

There are so many unique egg-decorating traditions from around the world, including the Ukrainian practice of decorating eggs with melted wax.

Known as Pysanky eggs, these hand-drawn designs produce stunning results using a wax-resist (batik) method. The centuries-old tradition is still practised today in Ukraine and other Eastern European countries.



Creating Colourful Outdoor and Indoor Carpets

Ahead of Holy Week in some countries, the town covers the streets in colourful carpets in preparation for its Good Friday procession. The long carpets are made from flowers, coloured sawdust, fruits, vegetables, salt and sand. Each carpet is often covered in scenes that are important to the artists who make them, ranging from religion to traditional patterns. Some of these pieces can stretch as long as half a mile, and artists use stencils to assemble them

quickly since they have just 24 hours to create their works of art the day before the Good Friday procession.



Wearing Easter Bonnets



In the U.S., there was a tradition of donning the Easter bonnet. This fancy hat became a popular addition to Sunday church attire because of how it represented a commitment to renewal when paired with new Easter clothes. These head coverings were loosely tied with the end of Lent, which is when they would be purchased assumably after a period of frugal financing where such luxuries were typically not purchased.

Light a Bonfire

In Austria, people celebrate Holy Saturday night by lighting bonfires on hillsides. This tradition symbolizes the end of winter and the triumph of light over darkness.



Free Short Christian plays

At our Christmas Eve family service, I “produced” a short (8 min) play with some of the youth of our parish. I chose this one because it needed only 8 people, it was contemporary, no costumes were needed and the children could read their lines from a clipboard, sitting around a table. At Waterloo Bay our church is small, so this suited us well. I had 2 practice runs in the hall instead of Kids’ church on the 2 Sundays before Christmas and the children did a great job and received good reviews. To set the scene, the congregation became witnesses to the making of a podcast. It was called “Conspiracies of Christmas: What “Actually” Happened?” I took on the role of the interviewer, Ms Bea Suspicious, so I could be there and help keep the play moving if necessary. The original play had the interviewer as Bo DeBunk but I thought that was too American. I also shortened the play and made changes to the wording to suit the children reading the parts.



Join us as we watch the podcast
**CONSPIRACIES OF CHRISTMAS:
WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED**

Host **Bea Suspicious** will uncover the facts as she interviews: **Zachariah, Joseph, Mary, the Innkeeper, 2 shepherds, & Balthazar.**

This and many other plays are available on www.dramatix.org.nz. Dramatix is the world's largest collection of royalty-free scripts written from a Christian world-view. While the great majority are truly available free of charge, the authors of a small number do request a payment. In these cases, the details are noted at the foot of the sample script listed in the database. **NO MEMBERSHIP IS NEEDED TO FREELY ACCESS ANY SCRIPT!**

Over the years, at different churches, I have used a few free ones at Easter and Christmas with children and youth, but there are plays suitable for adult players as well. People at Waterloo Bay had not heard of them, so I thought maybe others would be interested. Maybe you’d like to do one for Easter.....

Easter Jokes

What’s the best way to make Easter easier? Put an “i” where the “t” is!

Why did the Easter egg go to church? To get egg-ucated about the resurrection!

A man, his wife, and his cranky mother-in-law went on vacation to the Holy Land. While they were there, the mother-in-law passed away. The undertaker told them, “You can have her shipped home for \$5,000, or you can bury her here in the Holy Land for \$150.”

The man thought about it for a while and told the undertaker he would just have her shipped home. The undertaker asked, “Why.... why would you spend \$5,000 to ship your mother-in-law home when it would be wonderful to be buried here and spend only \$150?”

The man said, “A man died here about 2,000 years ago. He was buried here and three days later, he rose from the dead. I just can’t take that chance!”





The **St. Peter's** parish feels blessed to be positioned in the heart of Wynnum Central among residential, commercial, shopping and services. Being located in the heart of our suburb has helped us fulfil our longstanding commitment to the local community. If you pop in to see us on almost any day of the week, you're likely to find us around and about the parish precinct, working behind the scenes or on the frontline of our outreach programs. This is a snapshot of what the 4th day looks like in Wynnum.

Mondays are probably our busiest day. Our thrift store Pandoras will be open – as it has been for over 20 years, offering affordable clothing and household items to all, but importantly, providing a mechanism for us to obtain goods and clothing for those in need. We routinely provide clothes and household items to the vulnerable members of our community. We partner with other not-for-profit organisations to ensure items donated to us get to those in need. Importantly, Pandoras is also a core source of revenue to the Parish – making up about a quarter of our total income. Our food pantry "[St Pete's Pantry](#)" will be making ham and cheese toasties for twenty or thirty locals who come in for a warm breakfast and a chat. Before they go, they'll pick up a food hamper for their household, with enough essentials to last one or two days. On Mondays, the parish hosts other community groups such as Rosies, Hair Aid, Mobile Laundry & Shower Bus. While not all services come every week, the Pantry and Rosies are always there for a chat, a meal and a helping hand. We call this the Monday Hub – as it's become a really important provider of services for many of our locals who find it difficult to access these services any other way.

If you were to wander by on a Wednesday morning, you'd be hard pressed to find a park. Pandoras will be open with a steady stream of customers, St Pete's Pantry will be providing grocery hampers, Rev Sam will be running mid-week services and if you're lucky you might see the SAILS at Bayside folk gearing up to take a group out for a sail or a kayak. [SAILS \(Anglican Sailing Adventures in Lifeskills\) at Bayside](#) was started in our area around twenty years ago, and while Wynnum is the parent parish, its successful continued operation is a due to a combined effort among Wynnum, Manly, Waterloo Bay and East Redland parishes. SAILS runs public and private sailing and kayaking activities for at risk members of our community.

If we're not doing yard work and gardening, Saturdays can find us doing anything from hosting a Car Boot Sale, holding a trivia night or maybe a fashion parade. If all that wasn't enough, we're also getting prepared to offer the Mainly Music program from early this year!

While these operations are distinct and provide different services and support to our local communities, they have a few things in common.

- they offer God's abundant generosity to anyone in need
- they are completely volunteer-led and operated
- they welcome volunteers from outside the parish
- they partner with other community groups to support those in need of a helping hand

The St Peter's community love being able to live our faith and our values, opening our doors and our hearts to all who call the bayside home.

De Colores, Crissi Flynn



SOUTHERN GOLD COAST ULTREYA



While the weather was damp and unfriendly on Valentines' Day, the Robina community was very welcoming. The adverse weather predictions led to the intended



commissioning of #84 team members to be postponed.

Thankfully people from all over the Diocese were able to join in via the Vimeo link. The Ultreya was capably led by Linda Hardstaff. The enthusiastic and talented band in which Rev Stewart Perry played the guitar, chose a range of new and old songs that got everybody into the spirit of the theme: God's Love: The Heart of our Journey.

The witness speaker, Samuel Kurien, gave a heartfelt talk about his journey. His witness song, "Love divine, all loves excelling" was perfect. Samuel referred to the reading of the prodigal son, and how God's love meets us where we are. He has come to realize that much in his faith life had required effort, to justify his belonging. His relationship was sincere, but it was effort driven. Cursillo gave him clarity. #83 had him "unlearning" what he had previously thought. God was not waiting for him, He was already there. His fourth day has had no extraordinary moments, but his prayers have contained more silences and he is learning to be present. Fruitfulness flows from abiding – he is less worried about outcomes and has been paying more attention to people. Rather than being driven by effort, his journey is shaped by grace. The Christian journey is not moving closer to God's love. God's love never leaves. It's not at the end of the journey, it's at the heart of the journey! God's love is real, active, sufficient, trustworthy and nearer than we think. Wherever we are, he is already there with us.



Rev Stewart gave the spiritual reflection. He encouraged all to recognise the power of God's love in "mountaintop" experiences, and then to reflect God's love in the everyday experiences wherever we may be, just as Samuel is now doing.



Diocesan Lay Director Marg gave the notices with special mention of the 40th celebrations and support for the #84 team. Everyone was invited to come to the Planning Day at All Saints Booval on 21st March from 9.30 -2.30.

Thanks Southern Gold Coast for your hospitality! Ultreya!



