

Oh Wings
Oh Wings
Oh Wings



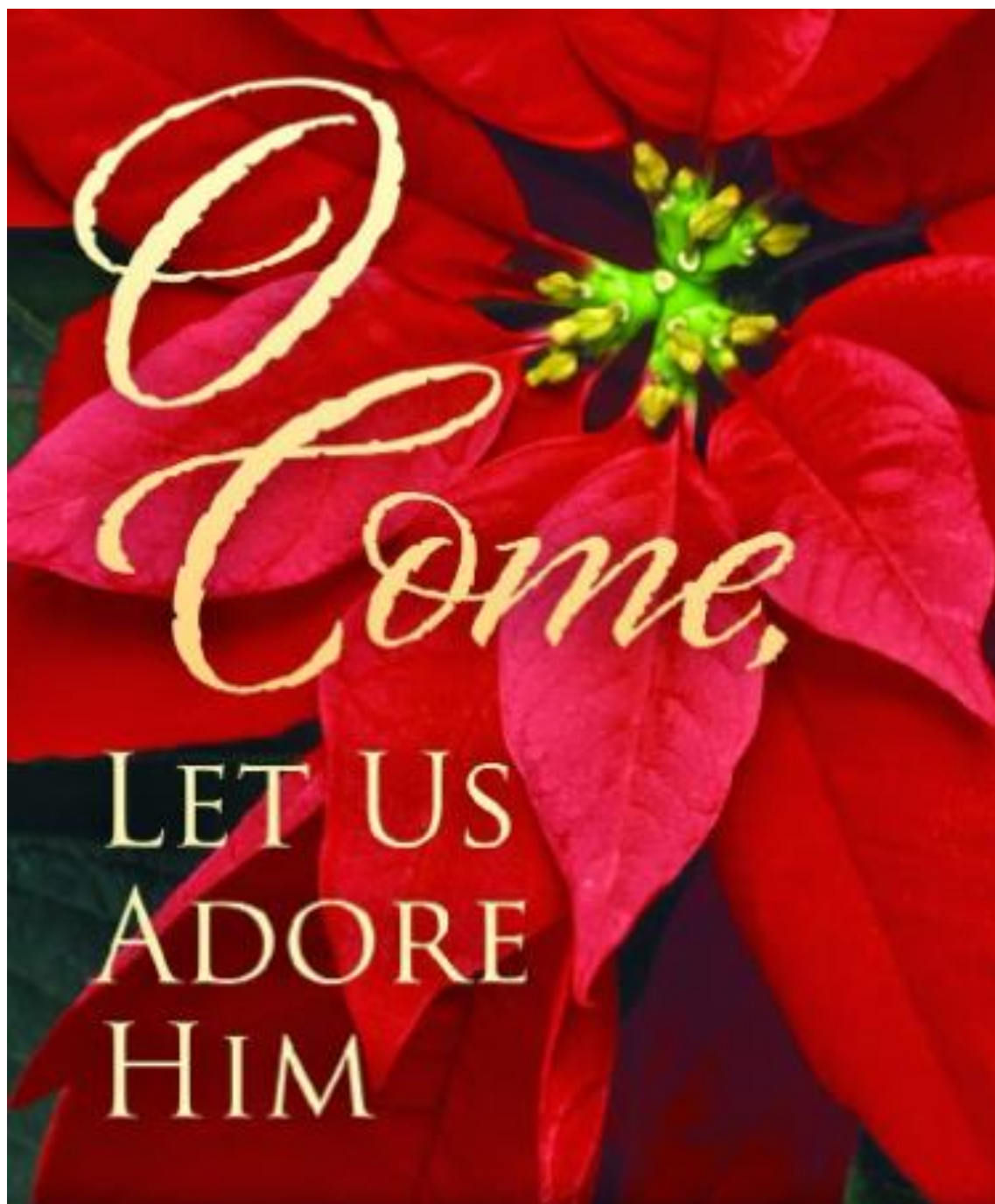
Like Eagles

'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

**DECEMBER 2025
CHRISTMAS EDITION**



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The Real Magic of Christmas is Jesus

7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. (Luke 2.7 NIV)

Luke 2:7 is a verse filled with quiet humility. The birth of Jesus, the long-awaited Messiah, happens not in a palace or even in the comfort of a home, but in the simplest and most overlooked of places. There is no room for Him in the inn, yet God makes room in a manger.

This reminds us that God often appears in the unexpected, the ordinary, and the overlooked. The world may shut its doors, but God's purposes are never hindered. The manger becomes a cradle of grace—a sign that holiness seeks us not in our perfection, but in the ordinary corners of our lives.

Mary's simple actions—wrapping, holding, laying her child down—also speak to God's tenderness. In Jesus, God comes close enough to be held. Close enough to need care. Close enough to share our human vulnerability.

This verse invites us to ask:

Where might God be quietly present in places we overlook?

What mangers—simple or unexpected spaces—might He be asking us to make room in?

The Christ who once found no room in the inn, now seeks room in hearts willing to welcome Him with humility and love. And when we make that space, even the simplest places in our lives can become holy ground.

The magic of Christmas is that Jesus (God) came as a baby, vulnerable and with humility - Grace wrapped up in a small bundle. Let us all be reminded that this is the ultimate Christmas gift.

Blessings to each of you.

I pray you all enjoy a holy and peaceful Christmas.

Reverend Pauline





Onwards, Upwards and into the future for CuSQ!



As we wind up 2025, the past 40 years of activity in Cursillo has seen close to 4000 Cursillistas experience the opportunity of the 2 and 3 day weekends. When Cursillo arrived in Brisbane in 1985 from Grafton Diocese, Fr Bruce Worthington, ably assisted by his wife Barbara, gently nurtured Cursillo and we will be forever grateful for his dedication and passion for the Cursillo movement. His reflection booklet was given to all Celebration Dinner attendees, and you can read it on the Cursillo-Brisbane Website.

The past year has had its own milestones to mark the 40th. In June, members of Synod acknowledged the work of Cursillo throughout the Diocese and this acknowledgment reinforced the work by 182 teams, Secretariat and Diocesan Servant Community members. Cursillo is a whole of Diocese programme and our Episcopal Advisor and Friend, Bp Cam refers to Cursillo as a ministry of the Laos – lay and clergy working together and this has been the case and continues today. We thank our clergy Cursillistas and those non-Cursillista clergy who also support Cursillo.

The **2-day #83 weekend**, held at Luther Heights/Coolum Beach in August, was led by Ann Martin-Victor and her team. This combined weekend for men and ladies stayed true to the method with 20 candidates giving positive feedback. Interestingly, the variation to the Clausura, requiring all to move out of the campsite to the Uniting Church at Coolum also had positive reviews from sponsors, team and candidates. All candidates experienced a wonderful finale to their weekend.

Highly successful Ultreyas at Bundaberg West, Bribie Island and Peninsula had excellent attendance. Then to cap the year off, the Diocesan Ultreya was held at St John's Cathedral, following a 40th Celebration Eucharist. Cursillo SQ was honoured to have Archbishop Jeremy preside at the Eucharist, assisted by Bp Cam and Rev. Pauline Harley (Diocesan Spiritual Advisor). Bp Ian Palmer, retired National Episcopal Advisor, gave a heartfelt sermon based on Matthew 13: 31-33- Faith like a mustard seed. Cursillo was blessed by this opportunity to celebrate this milestone and we are grateful for the help given by Rev Peter Catt and Rev Dr Ann Solari, plus Cursillista LAs, Rob Clark and Louise Harris, reader Greg Blundell and Howard Greaver with his talented team providing stunning music. Gay has more details with photos in her article.

Personally, I'd like to thank all our Parish Contacts. Your role is so important and it is clear that more people are becoming curious about Cursillo and ensuring it continues to be a successful movement. Some parish contacts have designated space with Cursillo information, including the new and updated brochure "What is Cursillo?" and "Application form" as well as the A4 "This is Cursillo" poster visible for parishioners to see. These are on the Cursillo-Brisbane webpage under Parish Contact information.

Looking forward into 2026, Cursillistas will have the opportunity to gather as more parishes are taking the opportunity to hold an Ultreya during 2026. More details to follow on these events and others being discussed.

Wishing you love, joy and peace at Christmas time and into the year ahead.

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

Voluntary Annual Contribution **Suggested contribution is \$20 per Cursillista**

Donations

The Love offering at the PENINSULA ULTREYA was \$404.04 and for the Diocesan Ultreya, \$730.80.
Your generosity is appreciated, THANK YOU

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

Name/s

Address

Parish Email

Phone Number Mobile



Ann Martin-Victor

Treasurer



Message from The Editor



Well, the 40th Anniversary Celebration was such a big occasion, I have given it 3 pages in this issue, to show photos and to highlight a few of the Reflections from people who attended. If you couldn't be there, I hope this gives you some idea of what you missed out on. It was a BIG day/night for those who attended, especially with transport difficulties due to train outages, but it was even bigger for those who had planned and organised it. Bishop Ian's addresses at the Cathedral and then as the after-dinner speaker, were both different and thought provoking. I encourage you to read them both in their entirety on the website. There will also be a photo album coming soon to the website.

Rob and I have just celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary with a week on Lord Howe Island. What a beautiful place! While we felt blessed to be there, we were wishing we had gone there years ago when we were much younger to enjoy ALL that it had to offer. Still, it was a relaxing break and we are now ready for Advent – though not Christmas! Rev Pauline's article on the real magic of Christmas is a timely reminder.



It is good to have a couple of testimonies from 2 of our newest Cursillistas, Ros and Samuel, from #83. Marg's account of their Follow-Up Day was enlightening to me as I missed mine and have never been to one since.

Dianne Catto's passion for Days for Girls shines through clearly. What a blessing Dianne and her team have been to women and girls in developing countries. I am sure she would be happy to give you more information if you would like to support this worthy cause in your parish.

Even though I do enjoy putting the OWLE together, I do feel that 3 years is enough, and I know that a new editor will add a new flavour and have new contacts. I use WORD, nothing special, and am happy to help in any way needed, to produce the first issue. Please give it your prayerful consideration.

Rob & I wish you and your families all the best for Advent as you prepare to celebrate Christmas and hopefully enjoy some quality family time and beautiful church services.

De Colores, Gay

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M 0411 148 240

Edition	Cut-off Date for Articles	Email/Publish Date
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
Winter Edition 2026 June	25 th May	4 th June



The Eucharist in St John's Cathedral led by Archbishop Jeremy Greaves was an endorsement of the importance of Cursillo and a great celebration. Retired Bishop Ian Palmer from Geelong, in his sermon, encouraged all to not judge each day by the harvest we reap, but by the seeds we sow.



The Diocesan Ultreya that followed, acknowledged Cursillistas from throughout the Diocese including Chinchilla, Mitchell, Roma, Allora, Hervey Bay, Maryborough, Bundaberg, Gold Coast and all points in between.

In her witness talk, Alison Dorman, whose Cursillo was in 1986, told how Cursillo had influenced her spiritual direction and growth. Alison had taken Cursillo to North Queensland, Darwin and New Zealand and has been a leader in various programs within the Diocese. Bishop Cam reflected how "from little things, big things grow".

Bishop Cam commissioned James Pula and Peter Harley as Co-Lay Directors of #84. Margaret Peterson was thanked for her wonderful service as secretary of Secretariat and decommissioned. Alan Gray was commissioned as Communications Officer.

Following the Ultreya, Barry Cathcart played the pipes and James and Peter led a procession down to the dinner. There were more songs, guest speakers – Irene Moy for Rev Bruce Worthington, Gail Toohey, Ann Morris and Bp Ian Palmer. The food – it was delicious!

The committee and their helpers did a fabulous job and put in so many hours in preparation and attention to detail and we all say

THANK YOU!!!!



THE PROCESSION



THE DINNER



CURSILLO REFLECTIONS

Helen Spinks

In 2023, I had just started a new job and the only person I knew was my sponsor and I had so much anxiety. I went to Cursillo as a stranger and came out as part of a unique family with similar beliefs. Cursillo has grown my faith, and I believe I'm never alone.

Allan Zirbel

Cursillo has given me more courage to speak openly about both my faith and the Cursillo movement.

Anonymous

Cursillo has brought a lot of joy and friendship into my life. Visiting other parishes widens our boundaries.

James Pula

After my Cursillo, I was called to be a support person for a program for complex youth. Now, 11 years later, it's still a calling and I am happy working in a school for students with complex needs. Matthew 11:28-30, "Come to me, all you who are weary". The Lord still wants me there and I will be, until He says otherwise. His love and grace for all His children are unfailing. Amen

Valerie Hoare

What absolutely astounded me when I attended Cursillo was the role of the laity. There were women, just like me, sharing faith, speaking with authority about God's presence in their lives and passion for God. What a vision to put in front of me! I've been blessed to be on team, to be able to be a woman just like the people attending their first Cursillo, sharing my love and faith in God.



Greg Blundell

The Lord walks with me constantly. Without him I would quickly "fall down". His unconditional love sustains me, all day, every day. My faith continues to grow every day and Cursillo has been a constant "spark" along the way.

Lynda

Cursillo allows me to bring my needs to God in prayer - the struggles and the good moments of life too. Cursillo helps me to connect with other Christians to sing, share and pray for one another.

Peter Harley

My faith began before Cursillo but it was certainly strengthened by Cursillo. Before Cursillo, I thought I could be a Christian, on my own, according to God's word. Being solo was hard work – there were too many temptations! Cursillo taught me that I needed to be in a community which helped when faced with temptations. It also taught me about unconditional love and that I couldn't do anything on my own.



MEET SAMUEL KURIEN #83

I had the blessing of attending Cursillo #83 on August 22–24 at Luther Heights, Coolum, and becoming a Cursillista. The theme for the weekend was “Grace – Because He Lives.” That phrase became more than just words on a banner—it became the heartbeat of my experience and the foundation of what I carried home with me. When I first arrived, I wasn’t sure what to expect. I thought it might be like any other retreat: some talks, some quiet time, and a chance to step away from daily routines. But what I discovered was so much more. From the very beginning, I was embraced by a community overflowing with love, joy, and welcome. There was laughter, warmth, and an immediate sense of belonging that made me feel at home.

Throughout the weekend, I experienced a beautiful rhythm of talks, discussions, meditations, singing, worship, and fellowship. Each part built on the other, gently opening my heart to hear God in new ways. The talks weren’t lectures; they were deeply personal stories of how Christ had met people in their brokenness, doubts, and joys. In them, I heard my own story reflected. Their honesty reminded me that faith is not about being perfect—it is about opening our lives to God’s grace, right where we are. (2 Corinthians 12:9)

The theme of grace came alive for me in a fresh way. I realised grace is not just a concept or a church word; it is God’s love poured out daily, giving me strength when I feel weak, forgiveness when I fall short, and hope when life feels uncertain. (Ephesians 2:8–9) During the meditations and times of prayer, I was deeply moved by the reminder of Jesus’ words: “Because I live, you also will live” (John 14:19). His resurrection is not only the source of eternal life—it is also the source of courage, joy, and perseverance in my daily walk. (1 Peter 1:3)

What also struck me was the joy of Christian community. Singing together, sharing meals, praying side by side, and enjoying moments of laughter and sadness—it all reminded me that discipleship is not a solitary journey. By the end of the weekend, the strangers I met on Friday had become brothers and sisters in Christ, fellow Cursillistas, friends who continue to encourage me, pray with me, and walk alongside me. (Hebrews 10:24–25)

But the most important part of Cursillo is what comes next—the Fourth Day, the rest of our lives after the weekend. This is where the lessons of Cursillo are lived out. I came away with a deeper conviction of the continuing need to be:

- Rooted in prayer – daily seeking God’s presence and strength. (1 Thessalonians 5:16–18)
- Faithful in fellowship – staying connected with others in reunion groups and community. (Acts 2:42)
- Bold in witness – letting my words and actions reflect Christ, so that others may see His love shining through me. (Matthew 5:16)

These are not just disciplines; they are lifelines. They keep me empowered, motivated, and enduring in perseverance when faith is tested. (Hebrews 12:1–2) They remind me that Christ’s grace is more than enough, every single day.

Looking back on my Cursillo #83 experience, I can honestly say it was life-giving. It renewed my faith, deepened my sense of belonging, and ignited a desire to live more authentically as a disciple of Jesus. By His grace and because He lives, we too can live with joy, courage, and hope.

De Colores, *Samuel*



MEET ROS CRANK #83

Hello, my name is Ros Crank I was a candidate at Cursillo #83 this year. Even though I was very overwhelmed leading up to Cursillo, I feel so blessed to have done it. My heart feels so alive with God's love - it has truly changed my life. I have made lifelong friends, and I know Jesus is with me always. I can feel him with me every day.

I'd like to sincerely thank my sponsor, Carolyn, for supporting me on this journey along with my Parish of Toowoomba West. Thank you to all those who played a part of Cursillo and helped me along the way.

God Bless,
Ros.



Waterloo Bay held another Messy Church in October on one of those stormy nights, which possibly kept the numbers down. However, the hall was buzzing with families. The theme of Loving God's World was reflected in all the activities offered – nature wreath, bird feeder, butterfly bookmark, wonderful world painting, God made me collage, box collage animals, playdough creations and caterpillars from egg cartons and finger knitting – catering for a wide range of ages.

The majority of people leading the activities were Cursillistas ably led by Marilyn Hockaday. After the messy activities, there was a short celebration in the church followed by barbecued sausages, potato bake, salad and ice creams. A good time was had by all!



FOLLOW UP DAY #83 BY MARG CARR

Holy Trinity Kawana (HTK) Anglican was the venue for the Follow Up day for Weekend #83. 15 of the 20 candidates, accompanied by their sponsors, arrived in a flurry of excitement to catch up with their new Cursillista friends. The Anglican Diocese of Southern Queensland, covers a vast area and so, with participants arriving from Robina, in the south, to Bundaberg West in the north, this event was a great opportunity for a catch up.

Follow Up Day team leader Marg Carr along with Ian Carr, Chris and Isobel Rohde, Brian and Kay Blinco, Allan Zirbel and Margaret Peterson were supplemented by sponsors Rev. Mike Vercoe, Clare Reed, Bill and Jan Lawrence and Bev McClelland who presented talks and / or assisted with the readings/ meditations.

As well as concentrated discussions, Group Reunion (a new venture for many) accompanied by prayer and praise consolidated the candidates' experience from their Coolum weekend. Throughout the day, our talented musician, Margaret Peterson, teased the participants back to their seats with one verse of De Colores after various activities, creating anticipation to sing the full version at the end of the day. When it came, the roof of the hall shuddered with the vibrations and powerful singing.... De Colores!!!!

It was evident from the participation and enthusiasm of the new Cursillistas and sponsors that the Follow Up Day was a memorable and successful day for all.



NAMBOUR GROUPING

by VERLIE DAVIES

For the past 20+ years several members of our Cursillo Group have been meeting for breakfast at the same cafe in Nambour. Over this time we have had new members join us and some older members passed on to their heavenly home. The only time that we went elsewhere to group was earlier this year for six weeks when "our" cafe was flooded.

We invited Fr.Philip to join us on his 90th birthday, which he did, along with some former members of our group to celebrate. We are so blessed to have such beautiful friends to still be sharing our Cursillo journey.

De colores!!





Days for Girls by Dianne Catto

Days for Girls is a voluntary organisation that creates feminine hygiene kits for girls and women in developing countries. Alongside the kits, we provide vital health education to help break down the stigmas and cultural taboos surrounding menstruation.

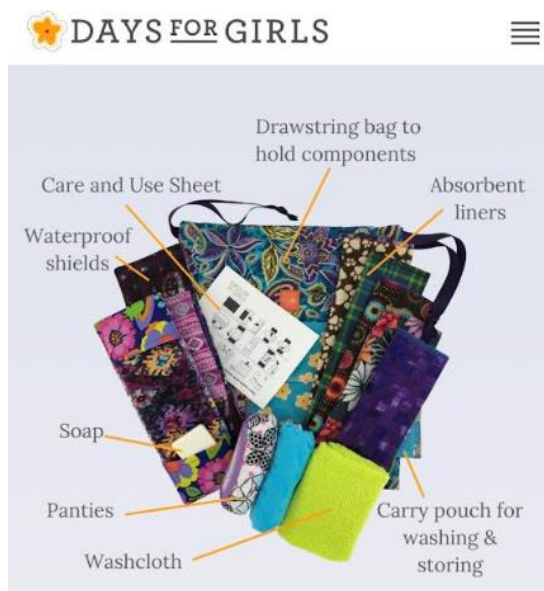
The kits are fully washable and designed to last between three to five years. Before receiving a Days for Girls kit, many women endure days of isolation and resort to unimaginable methods—sitting on cardboard, using half a coconut shell, newspaper, corn husks, or other improvised materials to manage their menstrual flow.

This is an international nonprofit organisation founded in 2008. Since then, it has produced and distributed over five million kits worldwide. Geoff and I have undertaken numerous trips to the Pacific region to distribute Days for Girls kits. It was during these trips that I came up with the idea of starting a group in Mackay, where I continue to serve as team leader. When we moved to Wynnum, I remained involved with Days for Girls but missed the community spirit of the project. After COVID, and with the support of local residents, a new group was established in Wynnum.

Last year alone, our dedicated team of volunteers created 1,500 kits, transforming the lives of recipients in Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, Sri Lanka, and Australians in need.

Each kit takes approximately eight hours to produce. Our volunteers meet fortnightly, contributing over 100 hours of service every two weeks. Not only are we providing a vital resource to women in need, but we're also fostering a meaningful community activity for the 15 local women who participate regularly.

Our primary goal is to raise awareness about this project and deliver essential resources to women and girls across Australia and the Pacific.



SOUTHERN GOLD COAST ULTREYA

**Theme: GOD'S LOVE – The Heart of our
Journey Where: ROBINA ANGLICAN
CHURCH**

**186 Robina Town Centre Drive, Robina.
(Exits 79 & 82 off the Pacific Highway/M1)**

When: 14th February, 2026

**Time: Free sausage sizzle plus from
midday ULTREYA starts at
1.00pm**

Witness Speaker: Samuel Kurien #83



BUNDABERG ULTREYA

Bill Lawrence and his team want to extend a warm welcome to all for their Ultreya at the Good Shepherd Church, corner of George and Takalvan Streets, West Bundaberg on **14th March, 2026**. The theme will be "A Grateful Heart" and promises to be another uplifting afternoon. Bring your lunch for 12 noon so that the Ultreya can start at 1pm sharp. Why not book some accommodation and join them for church on Sunday as well!

On Wings Like Eagles – Brisbane Diocese



MORE ULTREYAS PLANNED FOR 2026

Outback Mitchell

May 22-4

Fraser Coast

July 25

Peninsula

October 10

Diocesan @ Sherwood Nov 14



CHRIST BE OUR LIGHT



Thank you to everyone who attended the Peninsula Ultreya from far and wide. We were so blessed with a beautiful Day and Christ's love was shared abundantly. Everyone who came got a lighthouse containing the questions for reflection.

Our band got us off to a great start encouraging all to join in the familiar songs. Our MC, Chris Nelson M28, introduced our theme, 'Christ Be Our Light' and this was echoed throughout the afternoon in songs, prayers, dramatic bible reading and through the words of our witness speaker, Greg Windsor M9, from Hervey Bay. There was much discussion during grouping, sharing our experiences of Christ's light. It was so good to have some of the new Cursillisters from #83 join us. Many new friendships were formed and many old friendships rekindled.

Thank you to everyone who made our Ultreya possible.

De colores, Kris Frith





Newsletter for the Anglican Cursillo Movement Diocese of Brisbane



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