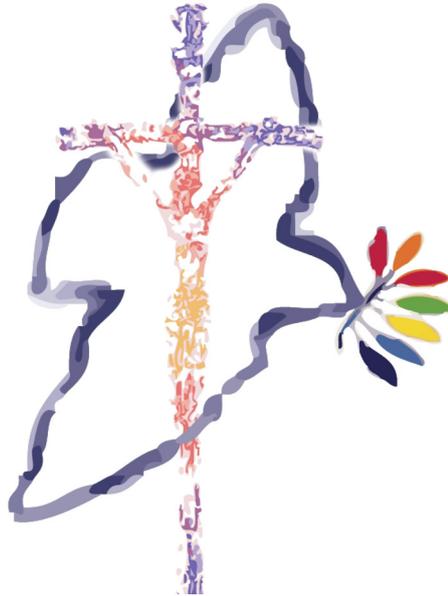


CURSILLO NEWS

England and Wales



*This is a new adventure! We are hoping to reach out
and spread the Cursillo
Community to all*

*We are His feet, His hands, His voice, and His body
Are you in Cursillo?*

Were you in Cursillo?

Christ is counting on you

Volume 1
Quarterly

Spiritual Director

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

“ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ”.

St. Jerome (Commentary on Isaiah)

On 30 September, our Holy Father, Pope Francis. Issued a Motu Proprio (personal declaration) entitled *Aperuit Illis*. These words come from Luke 24:45,

“He opened their minds to understand
the Scriptures”.

This is part of the events of the first Easter Day. Here the Lord, having appeared in the Upper Room, explains to the Apostles, using the Scriptures (what we now call the Old Testament) everything about himself: his suffering, death and resurrection. Similarly, a little earlier, he had appeared to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus, who having eaten with him, he had vanished. Immediately they decided to return to Jerusalem declaring,

“Did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us (Luke 24 :32).”

This short document (available on the Vatican website) declares the year 2020 The Year of the Word. It begins at the opening of the Church's liturgical year on the first Sunday of Advent, 1 December.

In addition, the Holy Father announces that from 2020 onwards the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, will be The Sunday of the Word of God.

The Pope has chosen to make this announcement now because 2020 is the 10th anniversary of Pope Benedict's Apostolic Exhortation, *Verbum Domini*, 'The Word of the Lord'. This coming year also marks the 1,600th anniversary of the death of St Jerome (30 September 420). It was St Jerome who translated the original Hebrews and Greek Scriptures into Latin, the Vulgate, which was the standard text of the Bible for over 1,000 years.

In his commentary on the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, St Jerome states,

'Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ'

This is where we should make our beginning.

The Scriptures which we also call The Holy Bible, is the foundation of our lives as Catholic Christians and, therefore, of our Cursillo movement. For some time now, we have experienced in England and Wales, a slow decline in the movement, with much of our activity confined to the North-West of England, particularly the dioceses of Liverpool and Shrewsbury.

Other parts of the country carry on, but with fewer members and, consequently Weekends. We are also called to discern who will be our new President after the remarkable years under the leadership of Terry Mortimer, for which we are particularly grateful. For growth and leadership, we need the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the strengthening of our faith.

What better time to discover the Spirit in renewal and the discernment of leadership than in the year dedicated to the Word of God under the title, The God who speaks?

We need the Word of God to help us in these important tasks. Perhaps we can define this in three ways?

1. The Word of God in Worship and in our mutual fellowship. This means putting Christ at the centre. Our plans ,decisions and discussions on the way forward can only be fruitful if we listen to 'the God who speaks' and so this in communion with each other.
2. The Word of God gives us insight into how to live human community and also to value the world in which we live as God's world and not our own. In other words, faith in action, one of the core insights which Cursillo brings to the Church.
3. The Word of God is the indispensable tool for each of us as we seek to grow in understanding, not only of our faith, but of the culture in which we live and are called to proclaim it. What do you bring to Group Reunion when asked, 'What have I read recently?' The Bible should always be at the head of the list.

You should never be without a Bible. Small volumes are very portable – although a magnifying glass can sometimes help! A reading scheme is also valuable. Reading from cover to cover is not a good idea. There are many schemes available and even Bibles which are arranged in a schematic order. It is possible to read the whole Bible in two years in very easy manageable are an ideal way of immersing yourself in the Word of God.

All this is a great challenge- but whoever said being a Christian and knowing one's faith is easy! The whole

point of reading and understanding the Scriptures is an Encounter with God (another Cursillo concept). If we allow God to speak, he will reveal himself to us and help us to develop our faith.

With my love and prayers at the beginning of the Year
of the word,

Canon Michael Leadbeater (National Spiritual Director)

PRESIDENT

A letter to our president

The first magazine for a while comes to say hello and
God Bless.

You are very much in our thoughts and Prayers and
very much in our Hearts.

Following your foundation, it is now time for those who
have listened to your wisdom
to practice your teachings and leadership.

Love from Cursillo England and Wales and all the
Cursillo family.

Numbers 6 :24-26.



Palanca – What Does it Mean?

Palanca is a Spanish word which means lever

“Give me a lever, and fulcrum, and I will lift up the
Earth”

Archimedes

And now, O Lord, what do I wait for? My hope is in you
(Psalm 39:7)

In the same way that the lever enables a person to lift something which is beyond their strength, the prayers and sacrifices allow the participants to accomplish more than they could alone

The Palanca helps to overcome the resistance to grace for those for whom we pray

To offer a Palanca is to put into practice the dogma of the Communion of Saints, as mentioned by Pius XII in his encyclical on the Mystical Body

Palanca is the lifeblood of Cursillo

It is, quite simply, the spiritual and physical help that allows the weekends to happen

It is not just what happens at the weekends, it is everything that builds up to it, and all the people that say “yes”, even though they can’t come on the weekend, they help in many other ways

As a Cursillo family we try through our actions, prayers and services, in any capacity – large or small – to carry the Cursillo message to others. Trying to ignite the spark in others that was ignited in us, and which turned into a melting pot for religious and charitable duties carried out in the Lord’s name.

Palanca Is....

P Prayer, offering up everyday situations
for others

This is prayer, this is palanca

A Answering the call to serve the community

This is prayer, this is palanca

L Love, friendship, family and parish
community

This is prayer, this is palanca

A Acknowledging others' needs

This is prayer, this is palanca

N Nurture by supporting others in Cursillo

This is prayer, this is palanca

C Continuing to serve

This is prayer, this is palanca

A Affirming others

This is prayer, this is palanca

“Preach the Gospel, and if necessary, use words”

St Francis of Assisi

All we have to do, is show God's love through our action

Lay Director

Shrewsbury

We at Shrewsbury have had a productive year. We still have bi-monthly Ultreyas; on the last Saturday of January, March, May, July and September, then our Christmas Ultreya on the first Saturday of December.

There have been several changes. The fact that there unfortunately is no longer a mass with the Ultreya.

The parish in which we have the Ultreya has been joined with the church in West Kirby, with only one priest and there has not, at present, been a chance to find if Canon David will allow a priest to say mass for us (even if we can find one as they are few and far between on the Wirral at present).

We will be starting on the 12 November, to have groupings at St Catherine and Martina Parish Centre, Hoylake, 7.30pm. start 9pm. finish, (through blue gates at left hand side of church; on the **second and fourth Tuesday of each month.**

At St Michael and all Angels, Woodchurch, we are in the process of negotiating the parish room for grouping on the first and third week of the month. We do not know the day, hopefully, it will be also be 7.30. - 9pm. We have a couple of fund-raising events shortly. A Christmas fair and a musical evening in the New Year.

On November 6th two of us were stewards at Bishop Brian Noble's funeral. It was fitting that there were at least ten Cursillistas there to my knowledge. It is difficult to know as there were over 500 people in the church and the rest outside in the rain.

Bishop Brian was the bishop who allowed a Cursillo Community to be started in the Shrewsbury Diocese in 2008.

Fr. Jim Robinson, our Spiritual Director, was one of the many Clergy. At least one Priest and one Deacon were Cursillistas too.

We had our Weekend at the beginning of October at Wistaston. We only had one new Cursillista but that didn't make it any less of a wonderful weekend. We were blessed with some of our own and Liverpool fourth day representatives for the Closura.

We have committed' as a secretariat' to use the weekend in the absence of participants, as we feel we would be able to use that time for prayer and reassessment and to challenge ourselves as to the way forward. What a way to hand ourselves over to God!

We were hosts of the national day of discernment at Noddfa. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend as I was having a knee replacement but Chris and Clare, I am told did a grand job. There was no reason to think otherwise.

We are in the process of having literature printed to be able to facilitate an Ideal of mine to visit each parish in the Diocese however long it takes for me to do so and hand out leaflets after giving a 5-minute altar talk on Cursillo. I intend to start in the new year. It will be interesting to see how long it takes, as it is a large Diocese. We are hopeful for the future of growth in our Diocese & in England and Wales.

We continue with groupings and Ultreyas but also with the prayer request of Canon Michael, for Prayer for Cursillo worldwide but especially in England and Wales.

Joan Nov '19.

A Call to Arms.

There is a call we all need to answer. Just where you are right now. When we picked up our cross at our Cursillo weekends; the person giving the Cross said, "Christ is counting on you" and your reply was, "And I on Him"

"The question, is have you put on the whole armour of God"

(Ephesians 6 v – 10-20.)

1 John 5v14 says

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."

So why do we need to get dressed to do God's work, no workman goes out without his steel toecap boots, his hard hat, his high visibility jacket and his lunch. As we are going to fight the evil one who comes to steal our blessings and our faith. We should do the same.

If we want our Cursillo to be here for the next generation, we need to answer the call to arms. Are you willing? To stand up and be counted?

Do we talk to people about Cursillo?

Have you spoken to your Priest, given him the information on how we can work together?

In the past our priests did everything, the parish was run by them, now we are needed to do our part, to be a team. No workmen or workwomen or anyone who plays a sport play on their own.

They need a team of people who support them. So, it is with Cursillo, as with the church we need each other, we need prayer, faith and each other. We need to talk about Cursillo, and we need to share Jesus with our world.

A call to arms might mean a coffee given in His name. it could mean giving a talk on Cursillo, God has given us many talents why not use yours to help Cursillo grow. Rooted, planted and growing in faith.

Prayer Corner

“My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going
I do not see the road ahead of me
I cannot know for certain where it will end
Nor do I really know myself,
And the fact that I think that I am following your will
Does not mean that I’m actually doing so
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you
And I hope I have that desire in all I am doing
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right
road though I might know nothing about it
Therefore, I will trust you always though I may seem to be
lost And in the shadow of death
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
And you will never leave me to face my perils alone

Thomas Merton

From the start till now,
Are we ready to go forward?

God gave Cursillo its mission in 1947, Go into the world
and show my love.

Make a friend, Be a friend, Bring a friend to Christ.

How blessed are we, this a job which keeps giving, the
more you give it away, the more you get back!!

In the title of a song “how deep is your love”

His love has no bounds, share that love with someone
today-Smile people into the Kingdom of God

The important rule is PRAYER.
PRAY, PRAY, **PRAY**

Be rooted in PRAYER.

Jesus prayed first, acted second.



Getting Ready for Prayer

Jesus walked into the wilderness to Pray
Go into your Private place of Prayer,

Jesus, went far from the madding crowd
Find your time to Pray,

Jesus, Prayed in the night in the stillness, yet not still,
Don't speak- Till you have heard the Father-
what does He want?

Jesus, prayed not my will, but yours
Start with Praise- get lost in wonder, love and praise.

Jesus thanked His Father for all things
Keep praying

Prayer was Jesus work out.
After putting on the whole armour of God,
Then you are ready for Prayer.

Testimony

My Cursillo journey began with an invitation

“I want you to join Cursillo, so you can be on the team with me”

Like Bilbo, I set out on an unexpected journey

I didn't know what to expect, and so literally, everything Cursillo based has been an unexpected journey

For many years, I'd foundered, looking under every rock and over every wall for some kind of spiritual support. I'd been involved all my life in something spiritual, whether in the parish, or a charismatic prayer group, and now I found myself adrift. Little did I know, but Cursillo answered some long-standing questions and offered a new journey.

I learnt a long time ago, that the most dangerous word you can say when involved in anything to do with church is “yes”. That word went from agreeing to go on the weekend, to become the webmaster and then a national vice-president. Little did I know how dangerous that yes would prove to be!

Cursillo has been a lifeline for me, when I was struggling with family health issues, the local Cursillo group offered me strength and support, helping me to carry on. Once when I expressed a feeling of helplessness at being unable to do more, a friend told me,

“You’ve done enough, it’s your turn to be carried”

That, for me, is what Cursillo is about. It is Cursillo’s charism, support and strength. As yeast helps the bread to rise, unseen though it might be, Cursillo is the yeast for the church, helping us to learn and strengthen our faith, so we in turn may act as yeast ourselves. It is important to acknowledge we need help, as St Paul says in Philippians 4:13

“ I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me”

Cursillo and its charism, together with its anchor in the trinity, serves to enhance our lives and therefore enables other organisations to flourish. Come to our group reunions, meet Christ in other people and yourself! I did, and life has literally never been the same since

Come, Holy Spirit, as you came to the apostles
Open our minds that we might see the hidden things of
God

Send love into our hearts like a flame of fire
That our lives may be changed by the power
of Your Spirit

To do God's work on earth, and bring people with us
to heaven

“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named,
that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to
be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your in-
ner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through
faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may
have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the
breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the
love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be
filled with all the fullness of God.

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all
that we ask or think, according to the power at work within
us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
throughout all generations, forever and ever.

Amen

Ephesians 3:14-21

“Be a friend, make a friend, bring a friend to Christ”

Clare Ashton

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Please pass the magazine on to other members of Cursillo.

Be a part of our community in England and Wales.

Print a copy off, and give it away!
Email us with a peice for the magazine.

Palanca is always welcome

The content may vary from quarter to quarter dependent on the amount of input

The Editor

