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**GENERAL INFORMATION LEAFLET**

**What is Cursillo?**

The word Cursillo is a Spanish word meaning a short course. Cursillo originated in Spain in the 1940s. The movement spread to the USA and from there to many countries throughout the world.

Cursillo is a way of Renewal in the Church. It draws on the rich heritage of faith and experience to help us to know that God loves us and that we are to love one another. Its purpose is to strengthen Christians to a deeper relationship with God and to help them to understand and grow in the development of their gifts.

Many people are introduced to Cursillo through the Cursillo weekend, the ‘short course’ from which the movement derives its name. Following the weekend, the onward journey of faith continues with the support of others in the movement through the Reunion Groups, regular meetings of members in small support groups, and through the wider gatherings of the movement known as Ultreyas.

The goal of Cursillo is nothing less than to bring Christ to the world through the apostolic action of Christians in all areas of human activity.

**What does Cursillo offer?**

Cursillo offers an opportunity to grow in faith and to discover the meaning of life in Christ, sharing in the creative process of becoming the people God intends us to be… a means of encouraging Christian action in the world and a continuing experience of Christian community life. Cursillo is one expression of the love Christ has shown through his redemption.

**Cursillo Weekends**

The Cursillo weekend is an introduction to Cursillo and a short ‘refresher course’ in what it means to be a Christian. It is not an introduction to Christianity like eg Alpha, but is intended for people already committed to Christ. Oxford Cursillo weekends are residential and are held at venues within the Diocese. There is a daily Eucharist, morning and evening prayer and time for silent reflection, though it is not a conventional retreat. During the weekend, lay people and clergy give a series of short talks that offer a concentrated course in Christian living. These talks are intermingled with a series of meditations. You are encouraged to take part in discussions in small groups of people like you, laity and clergy, who are searching, discovering and growing in their faith. The participants and the presentation team form a learning Christian community lovingly enfolded in prayer throughout the weekend.

*At the time of writing, we do not have a Cursillo weekend scheduled within Oxford Diocese, but in the meantime we would be very glad to introduce you to a Cursillo weekend in a neighbouring diocese*

**About Ultreya**

The word Ultreya is one of encouragement – keep going! This was the cry of the pilgrims on the way to the shrine of St James at Compostela. Ultreyas are area meetings, larger gatherings than the Reunion Groups. A central feature of an Ultreya is the ‘action talk’ where we can draw encouragement from listening to the ways in which someone else is living out their Christian calling. We try to hold an Ultreya somewhere in the diocese several times a year.

Ultreyas are not just for Cursillistas who have been on a weekend, but are also an opportunity to bring a friend along to introduce them to Cursillo. At the Ultreya we can share and worship together and learn from each other.

There is also an annual GB Ultreya including a parade of Diocesan Cursillo banners around different cathedral cities. In 2022 it was co-hosted by London and Southwark Diocesan Cursillos, and in 2023 it was co-hosted by Rochester and Canterbury Diocesan Cursillos. In 2024 it is the turn of Sheffield Diocesan Cursillo.

**About Reunion Groups**

Group Reunions are small groups meeting regularly for mutual encouragement and support through **prayer, study and action.** These are designed to help people live out their faith in the Church, their community and workplace.

If you have recently been on a Cursillo Weekend, your sponsor will help you find a convenient group to join. Alternatively, if you have moved into the Oxford Diocese and have been part of Cursillo in your previous diocese, please email us so that we can put you in touch with possible groups. You can also join a group even if you haven’t been on a Cursillo weekend, which is a great way to find out what Cursillo is like. And if you are unable to meet in person or are too far away from an existing group, there are also opportunities to meet by Zoom.

**Explaining the words…**

The Cursillo movement originated in Spain and, when there is no direct translation, we use the original Spanish words, in common with Cursillo communities all over the world.

**Cursillo** (pronounced “kur-see-yo”) means a short course, in this case in Christianity

**Cursillista**: someone who has been on a Cursillo weekend

**Ultreya!** is a word of encouragement literally translated as “to go on” and understood as “Keep Going!” / “Onwards!” / “Upwards!” as used on the early days of the Santiago de Compostela pilgrimage. It is also used to describe the regular metings across the Diocese

**Rollo** (sounds like ‘royyo’): one of the 15 talks given on a weekend, given by different members of the team, who are the ‘rollistas’.

**Palanca**: Literally a lever, prayer activity to support individuals in their journeys of faith, both during the Cursillo weekend and beyond.

One benefit of maintaining words such as these in their original form is to provide a common vocabulary when communicating with Cursillo communities elsewhere in the United Kingdom and further afield.

**Want to know more?**

In the first place, ask the person who introduced you to Cursillo, or who gave you this leaflet.

There’s a lot more information on the web site [www.oxfordcursillo.org.uk](http://www.oxfordcursillo.org.uk). We also have a FaceBook page.

For other enquiries please email secretary@oxfordcursillo.org.uk
For clergy enquiries, please email Revd Andrew Foran at spiritualdirector@oxfordcursillo.org.uk
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