

Covid necessitates Zoom synod - once again



GALLERY VIEW: More than 70 Synod representatives logged in to the Zoom meeting of Synod, with several sharing devices to overcome problems with poor internet reception in remote areas. The numbers meant it was not possible to see all participants at once - this was one of three screens.

For most of the year, it looked as though this year's annual meeting of the Synod of Bathurst Diocese would be a 'normal' physical gathering in Bathurst.

However, a month before the scheduled meeting and with the NSW COVID lockdown showing no signs of lifting, the executive body of the regional church made the decision to split the meeting into two parts.

The first part was set as an electronic meeting (via Zoom) on Saturday 18th September when reports were to be tabled, elections undertaken (via a secure web site) and financials presented.

With this year being the first in the three-year cycle, Synod also had to elect new members of the various committees and councils that oversee the operations of the Anglican Church in Central and Western NSW.

The second part of the Synod meeting is now scheduled as an 'in person' gathering to be held in Bathurst on Saturday February 5, 2022.

At that time Bishop Mark will deliver his Presidential address, Synod will join in worship, there will be opportunity for questions, and legislation and motions will be considered.

Several motions without notice were received and passed by Synod, on the grounds that they were too urgent to leave till next February.

Among these was a motion moved by Bob Cameron (Orange East) and seconded by Sue West (Anglicare):

'that Synod expresses its deep concern for the people of Afghanistan, notes the Christians United for Afghanistan campaign, and respectfully requests the Bishop to consider adding the Anglican Diocese of

Bathurst to the churches who have signed the call.'

Speaking for the motion, Bob Cameron told Synod that the issue had arisen too late to be included in the list of motions on notice.

He said that people could Google Christians United for Afghanistan to check the organisation, and assured Synod there was a wide range of denominations supporting it.

He explained that there was precedent for such a request to the Federal Government, and cited the Syrian refugee crisis some years ago when there was a special refugee intake.

"This was in response to the many voices of both churches and other aid agencies and the like, to the Government. This is another such situation where people are fleeing for their lives."

See pages 4-5 for more Synod news

Incoming Diocesan Executive to seek fresh approaches

COVID-19 continues to impact so many plans for ministry.

However, I was so thankful to God and to you that the implications of COVID meant that many more people were able to join us for our *Ministry is for Everyone* conference than we would have seen in at the planned in-person gathering.

I was so grateful to all who contributed, especially the Rev'd Kevin Simington for his keynote address. All the videos from the conference may be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/ministryisforeveryone>

Another implication of COVID-19 restrictions was that synod this year had to be held in two parts. Part A was last Saturday via zoom. We received the reports, adopted the financial reports, and undertook the elections.

I thank the Lord for all those who were appointed and look forward to working together with them for the strengthening of ministry across the Diocese.

Part B of synod, where we will gather for worship, hear the presidential address, and consider motions



CONCENTRATION: Bishop Mark was a study in concentration as he chaired the meeting, maintaining a smooth flow of business while also managing the technology of Zoom.

and legislation, will take place (God-willing) in person in Bathurst on 5th February 2022.

Bishop-in-council (BiC) acts as the standing committee of synod and I wanted to let everyone know who will be serving us in this way:

Appointed by the synod:

- ♦ **Lay Members:** Karen Trafford, John Power, Ray Haigh, James Daymond, Jay Quince, Sue West
- ♦ **Clergy Members:** Tim Fogo, Phil Howes, Bob Cameron.

Appointed by the bishop:

- ♦ The Rev'd Andrew Thornhill, Lisa Milton, and one lay person yet to be appointed.

Ex-officio:

- ♦ **The Dean:** James Hodson, and
- ♦ **Archdeacons:** Joy Harris, Jono Williams and Brett Watterson.

We warmly welcome those new to BiC, namely: James Daymond, Jay Quince, Bob Cameron, Lisa Milton, and Andrew Thornhill.

Having a newly elected body commencing a new term, affords us the opportunity to pivot to fresh ways of operating and addressing some of our challenges in new ways.

Accordingly, I intend to set up groups from BiC to work with me in the following areas:

1. **Strategic plan for the diocese** – to undertake a process to establish a clear plan for ministry in the diocese for the next five years.
2. **Recruitment pathways** – to establish effective means of creating pathways for men and women from Bible colleges to come and work here.
3. **Financial sustainability** – to strategically address our financial situation and discern a way forward for the diocese and parishes for long-term financial stability.
4. **Ordinance review panel** – to review and update our administration

BY

BISHOP

MARK

CALDER



ordinance to meet current needs and practices.

Would you please pray for Bishop-in-Council as it begins a new term of service that we will work creatively and effectively to serve our parishes, clergy, and people?

Pray that through the actions and decisions of BiC, more and more people will come to hear the news of Jesus and grow in their relationship with him.

Pray that we will with 'one mind and one voice ... glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.' Romans 15:6.

Mark

Postscript:

I am delighted that the Reverend Brett Watterson, rector of Dubbo, has this week, agreed to be the new Archdeacon of the North-West and Principal of the Company of the Good Shepherd.

He will begin almost immediately but will be officially commissioned at the synod service in February.

Anglican

e-News

A newsletter for the Anglican Church in Central & Western NSW

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Disclaimer: The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Anglican Diocese of Bathurst.

Dubbo Anglicans join response to local COVID crisis

❑ Volunteers prepare handout packs of masks, sanitiser

As local traditional owner, Cyrena Harris, watched the 4pm Delta update on Friday 13 August she instantly became a woman on a mission.

Knowing the vulnerability of the first nation people in Dubbo, Cyrena immediately reached out to her church community to activate a project to meet a high need, and a small team of dedicated volunteers took up the challenge.

Packs with a mask, hand sanitiser and correct information on COVID testing and (more importantly) vaccinations were rapidly put together.

Up till September 8, the group had prepared 400 general packs of masks and sanitiser, 100 Elders packs and 300 Family packs. These have been delivered by the ADF and local police and Wirrabara.

“I just knew what was needed”, said Cyrena, a member of Dubbo’s Holy Trinity Anglican congregation. “I had witnessed people on the streets without masks, and thought to myself, what is going on?”.

Working with skilled individuals in the community, Cyrena was able to have the information printed in a way that communicated appropriately to first nations people.

“It is alarming that the virus has

taken hold in my community” continued Cyrena, “Working to ensure these packs were included in the emergency food distribution being coordinated by the police and ADF personnel has been terrific”.

Food, pharmaceuticals donated

Donations were quick to roll in over the weekend before last from Anglicare, Tim Koertz Pharmacy, Priceline Pharmacy and Ashcroft’s IGA, and an anonymous donor.

As the community agencies work closely to ensure no one is excluded, workers remain safe and all basic needs are met, the members of Dubbo Anglican Church have successfully put together 2000 packs from private and agency donations.

“We are being asked by the those handing out food bank parcels, to keep making the packs,” said Cyrena. “However we are out of supplies”.

Cyrena’s care and love for her community is contagious. “The word is spreading, locals want to do the right thing by their neighbours, it is just amazing”, she said.

The church has also donated \$1000 to Anglicare for food packages and plans to continue to support the local Anglicare manager.

Donations can be left weekdays at Anglicare, Brisbane Street, Dubbo.



MEETING A NEED: *Cyrena Harris, a First Nations traditional owner, saw an immediate need when the COVID 19 virus was first detected in Dubbo and went straight to her church community to start meeting it.*

Cash donations can be made to:
Dubbo Anglican Church Missions
Account
BSB: 112-879, Account Number: 458
486 719

Mask makers

As the pandemic spread in the Dubbo region Anglicare Canberra/ Goulburn contacted Dubbo Anglicare to offer material face masks for the project. It was decided 400 should be made, with Dubbo lending their support by making about 100-150. The Reverend Gloria Shipp offered suitable material printed with Aboriginal artwork, and the church has put out a call for sewing volunteers.

The team is hoping to have the masks ready to distribute by the first week of October.

Anyone who would like to join in the mask making fun is invited to call Erika 0407 988 747, or Debbie 0402 541 213; and they will arrange for fabric and pattern to be delivered to you.



DONATIONS: *Local stores including pharmacies and IGA Supermarket have donated supplies of basic needs for distribution to First Nation households, but stocks are limited and the volunteers are calling for donations of food or money from the public.*

News from Synod:

Opening Prayers set tone of meeting

Bishop Mark invited Andrew Thornhill, Minister at Coonabarabran, to lead the brief prayer service at the commencement of the virtual Synod meeting.

Andrew drew on Colossians 3: 12-17 in a brief reflection, pointing out that in verses 12-14 the Apostle Paul urges his readers to clothe themselves as people chosen by God, pursuing virtues not to self-serve or to look good, but to be wholly concerned with others: compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience, forbearance, forgiveness.

“The focus and the direction of these virtues is not on me, but on others,” Andrew explained. “Our conduct, words, attitudes following the example of Christ, not the example of the world, because we are Christ’s: dearly loved, forgiven through Him.”

He said the final layer of clothing (v.14: ‘put on love’) was “a bit like a jacket that goes on over everything else, bringing every other item of clothing together”.

“Paul urges: over all these other virtues, prioritise love. Brothers and sisters, only the love of God is able to effectively

bind all other virtues we pursue,” Andrew stressed, adding that such love was ‘powerfully demonstrated to us in the atoning, sacrificial death of Christ on the cross’.

“Friends, as we gather as the body today, it’s significant and appropriate that we begin our time in the Word. The Word of God, the Word about Christ - Christ, the one who brings peace, the one who is our peace, the one who is The Word, made flesh.”

He encouraged Synod delegates to take this time to let “the word of Christ dwell in us richly”.

“So everything we do in the following time we have: - the decisions we make, this time now of morning prayer, the discussions we have - are all to be infused with, prioritised by, centred on, in obedience to The Word.”

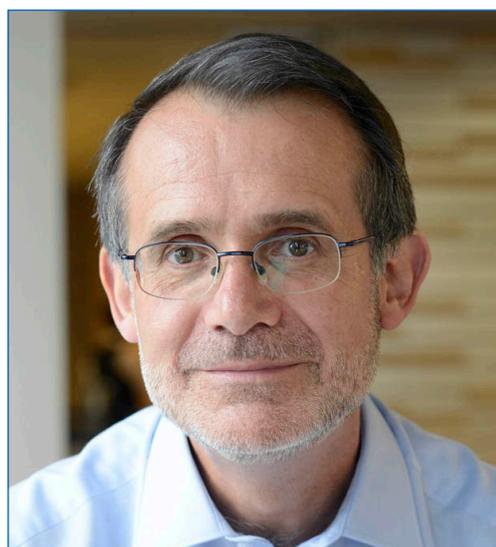
Andrew concluded by reminding his listeners of the need to do all this with grateful hearts, “giving thanks to God the Father through Christ, knowing that these individual and collective virtues are only possible in us, and are all provided for us, through Christ: God’s grace and mercy to us. So be thankful.”



GUIDELINES: Andrew Thornhill’s brief reflection offered some positive guidelines for the attitude and conduct of Synod.

Synod meets new Bishop’s Chancellor

The Synod meeting provided an opportunity for Bishop Mark to introduce Adrian Ahern, who he had appointed as Bishop’s Chancellor back in February.



CHANCELLOR: Adrian Ahern brings a long experience in law and church life to his new role.

The role of chancellor is to advise the Bishop of legal matters pertaining to the life and ministry of the Diocese, including advice on ordinances, canon law and the constitution of the Anglican Church of Australia.

The Bishop said he had known Adrian Ahern since the mid 1990s when they both had children at Roseville Public School. Mark had been the Anglican Minister in Roseville at the time.

Over time, Adrian and his wife Cathie had become very involved in the life of the church, Cathie serving as Children’s minister and Adrian teaching a correspondence course in the Bible and leading a home group. Adrian also hosted a regular group of men from around the city who would gather with Mark to read the Bible over lunch time.

Adrian Ahern grew up in Albury and went to Sydney for University in the late 1970s where he studied law and economics. Cathie grew up in Broken Hill and then Cobar. They met

at University.

Adrian has been a lawyer since 1984 practising primarily in corporate law. For many years he was chairman of law firm, Norton Rose Fulbright. He now works at Westpac as the Group Customer Advocate (ensuring a fair resolution is achieved in disputes between the bank and any of its customers).

Adrian and Cathie until recently have been attending church at St Andrews, Roseville, in Sydney where they both became Christians having been invited to an out-reach service in the mid-1990s by some members of the church. They have just downsized to the inner west of Sydney to be closer to where their children live, and are in the process of joining a new church there.

Adrian has been involved in a number of Christian ministries as diverse as those focussed on spreading the gospel to workers in the Sydney CBD, through to participating in missions to Africa. Adrian has also been very active in his local church through such things as leading a weekly Bible study.

News from Synod:

Reports give snapshot of Diocesan life

In moving the adoption of the various reports presented to Synod, Tim Fogo (Kelso) urged Synod members to read and take note of each report as they all highlight some aspects of the overall ministry of the church in this region.

Reports from each of the Regional Archdeacons – Grahame Yager (North-west), Joy Harris (Western) and Jonno Williams (Eastern) - gave a brief overview of ministry successes, challenges and conditions in their region.

Jonno Williams referred to the amalgamation of Rylstone-Kandos, Gulgong and Mudgee to form the Parish of Cudgegong Valley, as from the beginning of this year.

A common and predictable theme was the effect of COVID restrictions throughout the year, severely limiting opportunities for the church to gather.

Some were able to give thanks for vacancies filled during the year, but all acknowledged that recruiting church leaders remains a concern and a point for continuing prayer.

Ministry Development Officer Tim

Fogo highlighted the number of ordinations during the past year – three deacons last December and three priests so far this year – and the retreat for clergy and lay ministers in parish leadership.

He said the retreat, led by the Reverend Kevin Simington, focussed on a theme of Reconnecting with God with the first day looking at Reconnecting through Prayer, while the second day's topic was Transformed by the Gospel.

The program also included free time for walking, talking or reflecting. While an evening 'fireside chat' session allowed participants to control the topics of conversation. Feedback after the retreat was very favourable.

BCA Evangelist James Daymond reported on his first year in the Mudgee district. After recruiting a support team, James focussed on visiting the 'church fringe' – (those who identify as church members but whom we seldom, if ever, see at church).

The focus then shifted to Mudgee shopkeepers and members of the commercial community.



MDO: Ministry Development Officer Tim Fogo.

Other reports featured the ministry of the Company of the Good Shepherd (CGS), which, due to ministry relocation, retirements, and serious illness currently has no Companions residing in the CGS ministry area; and the work of the Church in the Schoolyard in Forbes.

The Church and Indigenous Culture report

□ Ministry and service of Gloria Shipp acknowledged

Among the various ministries that reported to Synod was the Church and Indigenous Culture working group.

The group's aim is to research, produce and make information available to the Bishop in Council, Synod, diocese and beyond to assist in the better understanding and incorporation of Indigenous Culture within the life of the church.

The working group comprises interested people from across the diocese: the Venerable Brett Watterson (Dubbo), the Venerable Joy Harris (Canowindra-Eugowra), the Reverend Gloria Shipp (Nyngan), Mrs Michelle Lyons (Dubbo), Angus McDonald and Eleanor Lawson (both from Molong). Other interest has been received from other parishes within the diocese.

While COVID restrictions prevented the group from meeting this year, the report noted a couple of significant events. One was a formal acknowledgement of the ministry of the Reverend Gloria Shipp, who moved early in the year with her husband Eddie to Nyngan.

During a dinner in the Dubbo Parish Hall, the main hall room was named in honour of Gloria, a Gamilaroi woman, and her many years of ministry in Dubbo and across Australia.

Born at Nyngan, Gloria was the first Aboriginal lady ordained a priest in the Anglican Church of Australia (in 1996 at Dubbo). Locally, with the support of her husband Eddie and the Anglican Board of Mission, Gloria has lead church services and overseen "Walkabout Ministries".

This has involved - running women's camps, the Elder's Outreach Group, women's dinners, 'Women of the Bible' days,



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: *The ministry of Gloria Shipp was acknowledged earlier this year when the church hall in Dubbo was named in her honour.*

the annual Christian rally and Reconciliation lunch, and the weekly bread run.

For many years she was also Chaplain to the Orana Juvenile Justice Centre.

Gloria has served and is a life member of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Anglican Council.

Making church more accessible

❑ Mudgee offers variety of worship times and styles

For some years, Mudgee parish has offered two Sunday morning services to cater for different tastes

The 8.30am service in St John the Baptist Church provides a more traditional style with Holy Communion celebrated every week.

At 10.30 a Family Service is held in the parish hall, offering a more contemporary form of worship with activities for young children.

The 10.30 congregation also builds community through other activities, apart from the worship services.

Earlier this year they scheduled a picnic on the bank of the Cudgegong River (just behind the church grounds) following the service.

Of course, lockdown over the past two months has brought all gatherings



PICNIC: The Family Service congregation enjoyed an after-church picnic on the bank of the Cudgegong River earlier this year.

to a temporary halt, but the congregation has recently begun holding service via Zoom.

Another alternative service launched in Mudgee earlier this year is Arvo

Church.

Mudgee-based BCA Evangelist James Daymond is using this service to provide a modern style of worship that will integrate with the outreach visiting he is coordinating in the area.

When the service launched at the end of April, James began with a sermon series working through Mark's Gospel.

He said one person told him after a service that following the story through the Gospel made him want to hear more, he was keen to follow the story next week!

While early numbers were small, James said new people were starting to come before the lockdown.

He said his prayer is that as restrictions start to lift over the coming months and the outreach visiting can resume, Arvo Church will continue to provide an accessible form of worship to people who are not accustomed to more traditional church services.



PLAYING THEIR PART: Young folk share the fruits of their craft activities during the Mudgee Family Service. Prior to the current lockdown, services were held in the parish hall but have recently recommenced via Zoom.

Regener8 2020:

Deepening our Relationship with God

An online opportunity offering practical help in developing a deeper and more meaningful relationship with our God – and applying it to everyday life.

All are welcome to join in a Zoom event, which is being hosted by the Bathurst Cursillo movement.

With an introduction from Bishop Mark, the day is intended to bring fellowship, learning and joy through three short talks, small group discussion and singing. It is free and accessible to everyone with this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87237656758?pwd=TURzdm5mNWdkcmI4VkkvVGd0Q1V5dz09> or, for those without internet, phone in with: Phone: 02 8015 6011, Meeting ID: 872 3765 6758, Passcode: 694293.

Pre-booking is not essential, but intentions emailed to grwilson@westnet.com.au will assist planning.

Saturday October 2, 9am - 12.30pm

Ministry is for Everyone

❑ Electronic delivery of training allows higher participation rates

The forced cancellation of the planned one-day Diocesan Conference on developing ministry skills was initially met with widespread disappointment.

Over 100 people had registered to take part in the July 31 event, when COVID lockdowns in the region made it obvious that it could not go ahead.

However, organisers quickly switched to a 'Plan B' seminar which allowed people to join a series of online Zoom presentations, with one topic covered each week over a seven-week period.

Participants could choose between a Monday afternoon presentation, or a repeat on Monday evening.

With typical involvement of up to 50 at each session, an average of more than 90 were 'attending' each topic and numbers peaked at 140 - far more than would have been the case had the original one-day conference gone ahead.

Bishop Mark said he was pleased to see that the numbers remained fairly consistent right through the series.

All six of the original speakers were able to present the topics they had planned, and while the Zoom format tends to make interaction with audiences more challenging there were opportunities for questions and comments sprinkled through each presentation. Each speaker distributed handout summaries by email a day or so after their seminar, and a recording of each was posted to Bishop Mark's Youtube site as well.

In the first session Bishop Mark introduced keynote speaker Kevin Simington, who had been the speaker at the annual Clergy and Lay Ministers' Retreat earlier in the year and had helped lead ministry in Parkes during May and June.

"Kevin is a minister with many years of experience in other denominations, and was ordained as Deacon and Priest this year in our Cathedral," he added.

Kevin Simington began by pointing out that every Christian has a ministry, and drew on Ephesians 4:11-16 to demonstrate this.

"Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors

and teachers," he quoted, describing them as 'the leader dudes', "to equip his people for the work of ministry."

He likened this to coaching or training the people of the church as a team "so that together the whole church might do the work of ministry".

He said that if the "pastoral care ministry of the church rests solely on the shoulders of just a handful of people, then, ladies and gentlemen, we are in big trouble - because a handful of people cannot possibly care for a whole church".

He explained that Ephesians 4 was "God's blueprint for a healthy church, because quite frankly, ministry is just too big for just a handful of people - ministry is for everyone!"

"Ministry is just too big for just a handful of people - ministry is for everyone!"

Kevin Simington said that God gives all kinds of gifts to Christians, to be used in his service - such gifts as hospitality, cooking, service, maintenance skills, musical skills, the ability to listen or praying were just some examples.

"When everyone in the church puts their gifts to use and gets involved in ministry the church is blessed, Christ is glorified and his Kingdom on Earth grows."

Conversely, he said that in churches where the people are not involved in ministry - churches characterised by what he described as "passive consumerism" where they pay the minister or the leaders to do ministry and they wonder why he or she is not getting around to visit everyone - are almost always characterised by discontent among the laity and exhaustion among the clergy.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Kevin Simington presented the introductory session, stressing that ministry was a responsibility for every member of the church.

Over the following six Mondays, various local speakers presented well-prepared and encouraging talks on specific areas of ministry:

- ♦ Mudgee-based Bush Church Aid Society Evangelist James Daymond offered some simple practical suggestions when he spoke on *how to evangelise your town*;
- ♦ Bec Choi, recently commissioned as a lay minister based in Millthorpe, presented some very helpful guidelines for *preparing prayers which resonate*;
- ♦ Bishop Mark's seminar on *pastoral visiting* not only explained the importance of this ministry, but also offered some suggestions to help overcome anxieties;
- ♦ Canowindra Rector Joy Harris spoke about *welcoming and integrating new people*, offering simple suggestions that everyone could adopt;
- ♦ Kevin Simington explored ways of *developing a contemporary service*, and showed how such services are much more accessible to people who have little or no experience of traditional church; and
- ♦ Phil Howes, Associate Priest at the Cathedral, talked about *developing small group ministry* and explained that small groups are an essential part of any church seeking to enable ministry gifts in people.

All seminars were recorded and are now accessible on Bishop Mark's Youtube site, via the following link: [Ministry is for Everyone 2021 - Youtube](#)

Yagers depart Gilgandra for Byron Bay

❑ Lockdown prevents community farewell

Grahame and Brenda Yager said a quiet farewell to the parish of Gilgandra last Saturday (September 18) as they drove out on their way to Graham's new appointment as Ministry Team Leader in the parish of Byron, on the northern extremity of Grafton Diocese.

Gilgandra Church Warden Stuart Border said the current COVID lockdown across the Western Region precluded any farewell function to acknowledge the end of the Yagers' eight years of ministry in the parish, or Graham's 20 years of service, both lay and ordained, in the Company of the Good Shepherd (CGS).

"It was really sad," said Stuart (who operates the local Post Office agency). "They came into the Post Office to pick up their mail last Friday and I presented them with a gift on behalf of the parish, and that was all the farewell we were able to give them."

While the move was actually

announced a year ago, for various reasons it was delayed until now.

"I never thought we would leave Gilgandra," he said, admitting that his first reaction was to say 'no' to the invitation from the Archdeacon of Grafton Diocese.

However, a visit to the recently-formed Byron Ministry Area last year convinced Grahame and Brenda that God was indeed calling them to move.

Grahame said that his experience in ministry and leadership in the CGS will be very useful as he takes on his new role in a ministry area comprising the congregations of Bangalow, Mullumbimby, Tweed Heads and Byron Bay.

Bishop Mark Calder said he is sorry to see Grahame and Brenda leave, but he recognises they are responding to God's call.

"Grahame is well known and greatly loved across the whole of the area covered by the Good Shepherd ministry," the Bishop said. "His love for the people and his knowledge of the history and ministry of this area will be deeply missed."



HEADING NORTH: Grahame and Brenda Yager.

The Bishop added that he had valued Grahame's considerable wisdom on the Bishop's leadership team and Bishop in Council, as well as his personal support.

Ironically, the region that Grahame and Brenda are moving to went back into lockdown late last week, just days after having restrictions lifted – so they will not have a public welcome to their new ministry just yet.

Cursillo notes

Mx1 postponed

It was with great disappointment that the Cursillo Secretariat agreed in mid-August to once again postpone Mx1, our planned mixed Cursillo weekend.

Graham and Ruth Wilson, Lay Director and Proctor for the team, have put a great deal of time and energy into planning this Cursillo and this is the second time we have had to postpone.

However, Graham has quickly redirected his energy into preparing for a Regener8 day on Saturday October 2, which would have been the first full day of Mx1.

Regener8 2021 will be a venture into new territory, as we experiment with a Zoom gathering. The plan is to present three talks during the morning, each followed by about 15 to 20 minutes of discussion time in 'table communities' - or, in Zoom parlance, breakout rooms.

The theme for the day will be *Deepening our Relationship with God*, and Bishop Mark will give a short introduction.

The three talks will be based on the three fundamentals of the Cursillo movement, and will be entitled:

- ♦ Developing our Relationship with God

(Piety)

- ♦ Deepening our Relationship with God (Study)
- ♦ Living out our Relationship for God (Action).

Please note that the day is not restricted to those who have attended a Cursillo weekend - it will be open to anyone who wants to take part, and we are hoping for a big roll-up.

It will be a good opportunity to invite someone who might be interested in attending a Cursillo weekend but has not yet had the opportunity.

There will be a break in the middle of the three-and-a-half hour program to allow people to stretch their legs and make a cuppa (at least the catering will be simple!)

The link to join the Zoom gathering will be:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87237656758?pwd=TURzdm5mNWdkcm14VkkvVGd0Q1V5dz09> or, for those without internet, phone in on: 02 8015 6011, Meeting ID: 872 3765 6758, Passcode: 694293.

National Secretariat

The National Cursillo Secretariat held its annual meeting via Zoom two weeks

ago. It had been planned to hold the meeting in Toowoomba, to coincide with

celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of Cursillo in Brisbane Diocese.

However, lockdowns across most of Australia prevented us from gathering.

It was agreed that as there had been no costs associated with holding a physical meeting then fees charged to Diocesan Cursillo groups should be kept to a minimum again this year.

Instead of the usual fee of \$400 plus, it will be \$10 per diocese for the coming year. This is a big help to our diocesan Secretariat and most others, as the major source of income for Diocesan Cursillo bodies is through holding three-day weekends, and very few dioceses have been able to hold such weekends for the past two years.

Also at this meeting, Lew Hitchcock was commissioned by the National Episcopal Advisor, Bishop Ian Palmer, as National Lay Director for the next three years.

