

# **CURSILLO® IN THE DIOCESE OF LEEDS**



“Through Cursillo the love of God is experienced afresh, an experience which draws us into prayer and compassionate action. Because of this, Cursillo is a much needed instrument for the renewal of the life of the Church today, and one for which I give thanks.”

**Archbishop of Canterbury  
The Most Rev'd Justin Welby**

“Cursillo is about making disciples; it transforms people’s lives and empowers them for service. Cursillo is active in most Dioceses of this Province, for which I praise God.

**Archbishop of York  
The Most Rev'd John Sentamu**

## **WHAT IS CURSILLO?**

The Cursillo Movement began in Spain after the Second World War and made its way to England via America in 1981. The Spanish word “Cursillo” means a ‘short course’, but a Cursillo weekend is much more than that. It is a three-day experience which, in the Diocese of Leeds, usually happens twice a year.

## **THE WEEKEND**

### **TIMETABLE**

We begin at tea time on Thursday. There is time to settle in and to meet others who will be sharing the weekend with you - some will be there as fellow participants, others are members of the team that will be serving you throughout the weekend.

(All members of the team have previously been Pilgrims on a Cursillo weekend and will have been working and praying together for some time in preparation for your weekend.) You will soon discover that the age range of the people there is wide and that we all come from a broad variety of backgrounds which all help to enrich the weekend.

Following the Thursday evening meal, the leader for the weekend will introduce the team and explain more about the weekend. Two scriptural meditations follow and a short evening service. There may be a period of silence which will last overnight.

Friday and Saturday begin at an early hour (so be prepared!) And you will be given a slight lie-in on Sunday morning. Friday and Saturday begin with a Eucharist and close with a service in the chapel. Sunday begins with a non-Eucharistic worship in order that the weekend reaches its climax in the celebration of the Eucharist on Sunday afternoon.

### ***TEACHING, PRAYING AND SHARING***

During the weekend you will hear five meditations and fifteen talks. (Yes, it sounds a lot but it's amazing how they fly by!) The meditations and five of the talks are given by the clergy and the other ten talks are given by lay members of the team. During the weekend, Pilgrims work together in small table groups and there is an opportunity for discussion after each talk and to respond to the talks in a variety of ways. (Don't worry - you will not be put on the spot.) Each table is assigned two leaders who will help facilitate discussion.

The team is there for you throughout the weekend and if you would value a chance to talk/pray/make confession, the clergy will make time available for you.

During the weekend we will worship and pray together, we will learn together, we will share meals together, we will have lots of fun together, and we may even share a few tears together. The programme is busy and Cursillo is not really a retreat but there are opportunities for quiet during the weekend. In other words, Cursillo is a multiple experience which we go through individually and together in community.

Cursillo weekends are soaked in prayer - people will be praying for you from the moment your application is received.

We cannot promise that every single aspect of a Cursillo weekend will be just right for you but many people have found their Cursillo weekend to be a highly significant moment in their lives. Most Pilgrims experience the drenching of God's love. For some, the weekend is a point of healing; for others it is point at which important life decisions are made. We simply ask you to be open to God's agenda during the weekend so that you can receive from Him.

### ***AFTER THE WEEKEND***

Cursillo offers to Christians and to the Church a support and encouragement structure based upon regular meetings (at least every two months) in Churches around the Diocese. There will also be an opportunity to join a small group in your locality.

# **IN SUMMARY**

## ***Cursillo offers***

- An opportunity to grow in faith
- A way of experiencing Christian Community
- Help in our spiritual journey and Christian witness.

***We hope very much that you will join us on a Cursillo weekend soon.***

***Whether you do or not, may God bless you richly.***

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Leeds Anglican Cursillo is a Diocesan movement and operates with the blessing of our Diocesan Bishop.

## **Contacts**

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*(Leeds Anglican Cursillo - Registered Charity Number 1164757)*