

AUSTRALIA TAKES CURSILLO TO HONG KONG

The Australian Cursillo movement was invited to introduce Cursillo to the Church in Hong Kong during the week commencing 8th October. (Cursillo started in Spain in the 1940s - spread worldwide and was brought to Australia by Canada in 1979.) A team of 14 from Dioceses across Australia plus 2 from the Cathedral in Hong Kong gave talks and led worship in the short course in Christian living.

Anglican Cursillo #1 in Hong Kong – So, what was it like?

Well – it was an incredible privilege to be asked by Archbishop Paul Wong to bring Anglican Cursillo to Hong Kong – and believe us when we say that the Team got as much out of it (if not more) than the candidates. The Team was made up of volunteers from the Dioceses of Bendigo, Bathurst, Tasmania, Perth and Newcastle. (Newcastle reps were Bill Nicolle, Jim and Barbara Warland).

Our Hong Kong brothers and sisters in Christ were an absolute blessing and encouragement to us. There were 14 candidates from Hong Kong plus Fr Will and Fr Robert from the HK Cathedral both of whom were on Team and an enthusiastic asset. The hospitality of Archbishop Paul and Fr Matthias (the Dean of St Johns Cathedral) was exceptional and we were made incredibly welcome.

Theme

All the talks were given and received with enthusiasm and the discussions amongst our table communities were open and responsive. The weekend theme was “Fan into Flame the gift of God in you” (2 Tim.1:6).

The Team were welcomed with enthusiasm and the Silesian retreat where the Cursillo was held on Cheung Chau Island was adequate to the task (although the solid nature of the beds tested a few of us). The Chapel was really fantastic and was set with seats in a circle surrounding a central altar.

Tai Chi was held every morning led by Liz Palmer and this proved relaxing and very popular with everyone.

It was the first mixed Cursillo that we had attended and it worked very well. There were 2 ladies tables and 2 men tables and this did not seem to cause any inhibitions. Discussion flowed freely.

We understand that the enthusiasm of the attendees is high and they have held their first *Ultreya* (*get-together*) on 25th October 2018 – they are also setting up Group Reunions to encourage each other.

Each of the Dioceses represented on team donated items, banners (including one beautifully made by Newcastle’s Cath Chegwidde), crosses (Lay Directors, speakers Chapel Cover etc.), bells, theme bags, tripod etc. as well as generous gifts for the candidates. Melbourne Diocese gave a large monetary donation. All of these gifts were

given to help Hong Kong establish HK #2 Cursillo which they are already enthusiastically planning for 2019.

The support from everyone in Australia with prayer and tangible good wishes was enormous and made a huge impact on all who attended. Heart-felt thanks everyone for your self-sacrificing efforts.

Amazing people – amazing support – amazing love – Amazing God – To Him be the Glory !

Jim & Barb Warland