



The British Anglican Cursillo[®] Council

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Strategy for Restarting/Renewing Cursillo[®] Movements In Dioceses

Revised 2018

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Introduction

These booklets, which form the Resource Manual or Handbook for British Anglican Cursillo (BAC), are revised versions of the original documents gifted to BAC from the Episcopal Church of the USA in 1989. In the early to mid-2000s and again in 2013/4 They had been revised for basic differences between the American ways of doing things and for language alterations, but it became apparent that the booklets were not being read or used effectively by Diocesan Cursillo.

This major revision and rewording of the booklets was made by a group of experienced Cursillistas in 2017/8 and is intended for use by Diocesan Cursillo in order to explain and guide such groups in the practicalities and use of the Cursillo method. We believe that this reflects best practice.

In line with recent legal requirements there are also attached Guidelines and Policy Documents, particularly in regard to safeguarding, insurance and financial matters.

It is recommended that any future reviews of these booklets refer back to the original documents received from the Episcopal Church of the USA (ECUSA), copies of which should be held by the BAC President.

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1. Prayer is essential throughout the process

Our first question, on learning that a Diocese appears to be asking for Cursillo to restart, should be, “Is God calling us to restart/renew the Cursillo Movement in this particular diocese?” Personal and joint prayer should seek answers to the question.

Pray and Listen:

- What are my/our motives?
- Who is God calling me/us to join in prayer about this?
- Am I/we willing to trust God's timing?
- Do we recognise that this may be at least a year or maybe a two-year process?
- Is there a vision for Cursillo in this Diocese?

2. Contact and Assessment

The entire Resource Manual is an excellent resource for all aspects of Cursillo. After initial prayer with other ordained and lay members of Cursillo, form a group to study the environment of this diocesan request.

Check on the 5 aspects of Cursillo in the Dioceses and rate them in an objective manner where 1 is good and 6 is non-existent, and giving reasons why :

- What is the condition of the Cursillo Movement in this Diocese?
- Secretariat
- Active Reunion Groups

- Ultreyas
- The efficiency of a servant Community

The following questions also need to be answered:

- What is the history of Cursillo in this diocese?
- Does the current Bishop support Cursillo?
- Do the Diocesan Clergy support Cursillo?
- Has there been difficulty in attracting participants to attend Cursillo Weekends?
- Has there been difficulty in recruiting teams?
- Has there been difficulty in forming a Secretariat?
- Has there been difficulty in forming a Servant Community?

Examine the difficulties encountered. By considering the answers to all the questions you will be able to begin to form an operational strategy for your diocese.

The following is a guide which you can modify to suit the specific circumstances.

- Seek the support and advice of the BACC President and National Spiritual Director.
- Arrange to speak to the Diocesan Bishop (or their assistant Bishop) and share your concerns.
- Ask all the Cursillistas in the Diocese to pray about the situation. Their names may come from several different sources and contacts, including Cursillista friendships, and by advertising in the Parish or Diocesan Publications.
- When contacts are established begin to build up a contact list with the permission of the individuals and with due reference to the Data Protection act.

- Contact those listed, and all begin praying - Lay, Clergy and Bishop.
- Pray about who are effective leaders and have influence with others in key positions in the Diocese - Lay, Clergy and Bishops.
- Contact those with the potential for effective leadership and arrange to meet with them. Continue to pray with and for them. Establish Group Reunions as soon as possible, growing and dividing as membership increases.
- As the Groups grow in number encourage them to meet regularly in local Ultreyas. At this early stage, these can be held in Cursillistas' homes.
- Encourage use of Spiritual Direction, particularly by those with leadership roles.
- Encourage those who are interested, but not yet Cursillistas, to attend a Cursillo 3-Day weekend in another diocese.
- Contact the original Gifting Diocese or a neighbouring diocese and ask them to pray and support the process.
- After several months, when a new community is forming, and servant leadership is emerging, start to study any existing Diocesan plans and look for ways that Cursillo fits specific areas—and talk to the Bishop and/or the Diocesan Mission Team about it.
- Arrange for some, or all, of the emerging leaders to attend a Cursillo Leaders' Workshop. Keep regular contact with BACC or check the BACC website for details of upcoming CLW weekends (www.anglicancursillo.co.uk)

- Form a Secretariat from amongst the start-up/ renewal group, who have in effect become a Servant Community. This will include a Lay Director and a Spiritual Director. Both should be formally appointed by the Diocesan Bishop and commissioned as soon as possible.
- Open a Bank Account if one does not exist and encourage donations towards the cost of setting up and running the first weekend.
- Communicate with other Cursillistas (this can be done through the BACC Webmaster (see above address). Tell them what you are doing. Use all available means of communication, Diocesan Publications, letters, emails, phone calls, posters and flyers.
- Hold a Clergy workshop
- Organise a Diocesan Ultreya. Notify neighbouring Dioceses who can encourage their Cursillistas to attend until numbers build up.

3. Looking Forward

When the "critical mass" of committed Cursillistas reaches about 40 persons and available funds are sufficient to remain solvent until fees come in, work can start on preparation for the first weekend.

[The BACC Resource Manual Booklet, "The Authentic Three-Day Weekend" gives details of the schedule and advice on Team Formation and selection is available in "Weekend Team Formation"]

Keep praying!

