



CURSILLO[®] in the Diocese of St. Albans



www.stalbanscursillo.com

Cursillo is a movement of the Church providing a method by which Christians are empowered to grow through prayer, study and action and enabled to share God's love with everyone

SPONSORSHIP GUIDELINES

It is usual for participants to be 'sponsored' by someone who has already made their Cursillo – this does not necessarily mean financial support, but rather someone who will support them with their prayers and friendship.

As a Cursillista you can sponsor others to participate in the Cursillo movement. The responsibilities of sponsoring require your willingness to do God's work. Support of the potential pilgrim is vital from the moment you decide that Cursillo may be right for that person. The following notes will act as an aid to ensure that choosing and preparing people for Cursillo is done prayerfully, sensitively and comprehensively.

1. A potential candidate for attendance at a Cursillo weekend and subsequent involvement in the movement is a person who is already a baptised and confirmed Christian, reasonably stable and mature, with a desire for God's love and an enthusiasm to do God's work in the church and in the world. Cursillo is not intended to be a conversion experience; it is for people who have a Christian commitment and are looking for renewal and growth in that commitment.
2. Candidates for attendance at Anglican Cursillo weekends should, with very few exceptions, be practicing Anglicans.
3. Sponsorship begins, continues and ends in prayer. Talk to God about the person before talking to the person about Cursillo.
4. Before sponsoring a person for Cursillo, we should take a prayerful look at his or her Christian life. Is this person likely to grow spiritually from the Cursillo experience? Will Cursillo strengthen his or her life in Christ?
5. Initially informal discussion should be used to explore the person's response to the principles of the movement. By outlining in general terms, the purpose of Cursillo, the methods used, the basic format of the Weekend and the expectation to join a Group Reunion it will be possible to determine the candidate's suitability. Be sensitive, ensure that discussions are not rushed and take place at an appropriate time and place. Encourage questioning with openness. **THERE ARE NO SECRETS IN CURSILLO.**
6. The candidate should be strongly encouraged to make the Cursillo in the diocese of his or her Christian environment. While this is not always possible, the candidate's incorporation into the Fourth Day is likely to be easier where they attend a weekend in their own diocese.
7. Cursillo is not to be encouraged if there are significant personal or moral problems or at a time of severe stress such as recent divorce or major bereavement. Usually, a period of at least one year from the event is suggested.
8. Before going ahead with sponsoring a candidate it is important to discuss with the candidate's priest your intention to sponsor. There may be reasons known to the priest why it would not be appropriate for the candidate to attend a Cursillo Weekend.
9. When, after prayer and discussion with the candidate and the priest, you decide that it is right to go ahead with sponsoring the candidate, an Application Form needs completing. These are available on our website or from the Bookings Secretary. However, before completing them, it is important that you confirm with the candidate your intention to proceed. The two sides the form should be completed, front by applicant and rear by sponsor and returned as directed. Following receipt of the form, a letter will be sent to the intended pilgrim acknowledging receipt of the application and supplying the other necessary information about the weekend. Your responsibilities continue to support the candidate during this period leading to the weekend. Ensure domestic and transport arrangements are being dealt with and assist as necessary. Above all **CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR YOUR PILGRIM.**
10. **DURING THE CURSILLO WEEKEND SUPPORT YOUR PILGRIM WITH PALANCA, i.e. PRAYER AND SACRIFICE.** Ensure also that they receive personal palanca messages from you.
11. Sponsors are expected to attend the Closing Eucharist of their candidate's weekend.
12. Sponsors are responsible for affording their candidates the opportunity for a Fourth Day life, aiding and encouraging them to belong to a Group Reunion and Ultreya