



## Passionist Family Group Movement Victoria/Tasmania

NEWSLETTER February, 2018

We wish you all the best for 2018.

The New Year is not so new any more and now it is February, the time when Family Groups gather to plan their year's activities. We hope that your Parish's planning meetings are happy and fruitful gatherings. Please don't forget to share the finalised yearly plans with your Parish Priest.

### Update on Fr Peter McGrath, founder of the PFGMovement

In the past, many of you may have had the pleasure of meeting or listening to the Passionist Family Group Movement's inspirational founder, Fr Peter McGrath. Like many of us, Fr Peter is ageing but he is also quite unwell and living in Aged Care in Sydney. A recent stroke has further compromised Fr Peter's health. Here is an excerpt from a Christmas message that was sent to our office on his behalf:

*"We are ever grateful to Peter for founding the Passionist Family Group Movement (PFGM) back in 1972: quite a legacy for a priest who was told to "Go set up a church in Terrey Hills". He did so much more when he gave us Family Groups. We will be eternally grateful.*

*Sadly, dementia is taking its toll more and more. He is often aware of names and faces, sometimes memories of the past. As one of his brother Passionists said, "Peter is in his own personal Calvary. Please keep Fr Peter in your prayers."*

Also, in your prayers please include PFGM members who are unwell and also those who have passed away in recent times, including Margaret Haines of the Ballarat North Parish.

### PFGM Interim Team

This Team, appointed by Fr Tom McDonough in 2017 in response to the ill-health retirement of Fr Peter McGrath, has been given the task of reviewing the structure and management model of the Movement, auditing current operations and providing support to Directors and Coordinators. This Interim Team will meet with Directors from the various states at Holy Cross Monastery in Templestowe on the last weekend of April. As the VicTas State Team members will be in attendance, we will take the opportunity to hold our own meeting during that weekend.

### Major Milestones in 2018

Congratulations and best wishes to those parishes that have significant anniversaries in 2018.

30 Years	April, 1988	St Columba's, Ballarat North (celebrating on October 28)
	August, 1988	St John the Baptist, Ferntree Gully
25 years	February, 1993	St James', Sebastopol
	March, 1993	St Kevin's, Ormond
	August, 1993	St Thomas', Terang
	August, 1993	St Kevin's, Templestowe (celebrating on August 12)

20 years      March 1998      St Augustine's, Creswick  
                  May 1998      Nazareth, Grovedale/Torquay/ Anglesea

*Please let us know of your plans to celebrate these occasions and their dates. Also, we would be very grateful to receive any reports and photos of these events that could be published on our website.*

### **Around the States- 'putting names to faces'**

Members of the State Team are endeavouring to meet face-to-face with PFGM Parish coordinators from the various clusters across Victoria and Tasmania. On a visit to Echuca late last year we met with coordinators, Carmel and Ted McKenzie, hearing how they had participated in their St Mary's Parish Expo, highlighting and promoting Passionist Family Groups. Ted and Carmel had set up an eye-catching display and distributed flyers downloaded from the VicTas PFGM website found under the 'Resources' tab. They also handed out PFGM bookmarks obtained from our office after an emailed request.

*If you are promoting the Movement in your parish at any time and need resources, please remember to visit the VicTas website: [www.pfgmovement.org.au](http://www.pfgmovement.org.au) or send us an email.*

In Rutherglen, it was an enjoyable a midweek coffee with six of the PFGM members from St Mary's Parish including coordinators, Helen and Ray Briggs. We learned that their Family Group members often enjoy catching up with each other after Sunday Mass at one of the town's cafes. We hear that this is a common practice in a number of parishes.



Ted and Carmel McKenzie –Echuca



Rutherglen Coordinators, Helen & Ray Briggs with Mary & Gerald Tirrell,  
Maureen & Tom Grantham and State Team members, Frances & Michael Sullivan

Best wishes and thank you for all your good work with the Family Groups in your parish. Remember, you the coordinators, are the glue that holds your Parish Family Groups together.

### ***State Team, PFGM VicTas***

*Frances and Michael Sullivan – Montmorency (Melbourne metro)*

*Alison and Tony Woolley – Warrnambool (South-West)*

*Trish and Roger Gurney – Donvale (Melbourne metro)*

*Gail and Hank Fiddelaers – Trafalgar (Gippsland)*