

Greetings all,

As our July newsletter was very plain and business-like, this update includes some colour and brief news of Family Group happenings in Victoria and Tasmania in recent months. Such contributions are always welcome! Please share this newsletter with your Family Group members.

No doubt you have some enjoyable FG activities planned for the last months of the year, so we trust that you enjoy catching up with other members in that time. Maybe take a few photos and share with us, please!

### Combined Family Groups' Activity at Endeavour Hills, Victoria

On a cold and wintry afternoon in June, members of the various Family Groups in the St Paul the Apostle Parish, Endeavour Hills, gathered for a special combined lunch and art program. The Family Groups had the privilege of hosting Rebekah Finger from the Endeavour Hills Neighbourhood Centre where she teaches art and is currently responsible for delivering the Diversity Wall project. ***The Diversity Wall project is funded by the City of Casey and aims to bring together members of the local community to explore the concept of Belonging.*** Through guided reflection and sharing, participants translate their thoughts into art through painting on a ceramic tile. These tiles are then coated in resin and displayed at the Neighbourhood Centre upon the project's completion.



We were invited to mix up some colours which represented us as individuals. Next, we poured them into tin pans filled with water. At first, the water surface looked like a smattering of paint blobs, each colour contained in its own circular world. However, Rebekah reminded us that, as individuals, we have come together to form Family Groups, therefore blending our gifts and personalities – becoming One Community. As she spoke, Rebecca ran picks through the colours to reveal a beautiful marbled mix - representative of our One Family.

Inspired by the Passionist Family Groups' motto, "A Family for All", Rebekah encouraged us to reflect on what we brought to the Family Groups – A sense of humour? Perhaps a dash of spontaneity? The wisdom of lived experience? Or even the peace of calm? Participants were encouraged to affirm their fellow Family Group members of their attributes and contributions to the Family Group movement.



Soon, we donned gloves and enthusiastically dipped our tiles into the water bath to transfer the marbling patterns for preservation. We were also treated with the opportunity to dip some watercolour paper into the baths, resulting in breathtakingly surreal and beautiful artwork – some of which will be on display in our church's Gathering Space while others have become treasured keepsakes for those who chose to bring them home.

***We thank the Endeavour Hills Neighbourhood Centre for allowing us to participate in this project and to leave a legacy of the Passionist Family Group presence in Endeavour Hills through art. We also thank the parish for allowing us use of the school hall for this creative gathering. Finally, we thank all our Family Group members – without you, we would not be a vibrant and colourful group in the parish!***



***Written by Emily  
and shared by Val Rodrigues,  
Endeavour Hills PFGM Parish Coordinator***

### Significant Anniversaries 2020

#### 10 Years

Cheltenham - Feb  
Sale Cathedral - June

#### 20 Years

Casterton - June  
Wendouree - March  
Boronia - July  
Hobart - November

#### 25 Years

Daylesford - Feb  
Montmorency - July  
Lalor - March

#### 30 years

Sandringham - May

#### 35 years

Diamond Creek - Nov  
Donvale - Aug

### ***The Family You Make***

Did you see the article about Passionist Family Groups in the Spring 2019 Parish Edition of ***Australian Catholics?***

If not, you can read an excerpt that is included on the last page of this newsletter.

## TASMANIA IN SEPTEMBER

In September, 2019, Southern Team members, Frances & Michael Sullivan, enjoyed the hospitality of the Family Group members of the Lindisfarne/Bellerive Parish at a friendly and sumptuous afternoon tea hosted by PFGM coordinators, Bev and Tony Palmer. The next day, after Sunday Mass at St Joseph's Church, Hobart, they joined some of that parish's Family Group members, the coordinators Maureen and Michael Ball and PP, Fr Peter Addicoat CP at an after-Mass coffee, a regular Sunday FG gathering.

### Visit to PFGM groups in Hobart, Tasmania



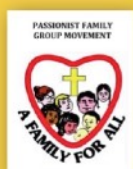
Longtime Family Group  
Lindisfarne ladies  
at the afternoon tea



September 22, 2019  
after-Mass coffee  
in Hobart town.



Hobart Parish's Family Group  
members enjoyed a Grand Final  
breakfast. Fr Peter was no doubt  
pleased with his team's win!



Early on AFL Grand Final day, Saturday September 28, about twenty of the Hobart Family Group members, together with their PP Fr Peter Addicoat CP, Fr Justin and Brother Ed from their Passionists' community at St Joseph's parish, HOBART enjoyed a Grand Final breakfast. Coordinator, Maureen Ball was sorry that her Collingwood team didn't make it to the Grand Final this year!

### ANNUAL REPORTS 2019 - THANKS

Thank you to all coordinators who responded promptly and returned their Annual Reports. These provide the Team with up-to-date and valuable information. It is also an opportunity for you to give feedback about how things are going with Family Groups in your Parish. If you have overlooked this task, it's not too late to send your Report to us.

### NEW PHONE NUMBER

The Southern Team has changed from an office landline at Holy Cross to a mobile phone, making it easier to remain in contact, as the office is not occupied every day. If you make a call that's not answered, please leave a message and contact number so that we can get back to you as soon as possible.

**0457 68 58 35**



For many years now, the group leaders/coordinators from St Francis Xavier Parish in Montmorency have spent a weekend at 'Star of the Sea' in Apollo Bay. It is a chance to slow down, spend some time to reflect prayerfully on their six Family Groups and then relax, reconnect and enjoy each others' company in the beautiful seaside surroundings.

*St F X Montmorency Passionist  
Family Group Leaders' Weekend 2019*







## St Patrick's Parish, Camperdown, celebrates 20 years of Family Groups

*On Sunday, September 15, 2019,  
many Camperdown PFGM members  
gathered for Mass followed by a  
friendly, celebratory lunch at the  
Commercial Hotel.*

*Southern Team members,  
Alison & Tony Woolley  
attended as did the  
PP, Fr Neville Stanislaus  
and Camperdown's  
former coordinators  
Frank & Carmel*

Camperdown coordinators,  
Trish and Tony O'Leary cut the  
Anniversary cake



A Family Group  
from the Donvale Parish  
in metropolitan Melbourne  
enjoyed a steam train trip  
from Castlemaine to Maldon  
in country Victoria in August.





## I'm already very busy!

If you are too busy, you are going to miss out on a lot of fun! Family Group life is gospel life and we should never be too busy to live that way.

## I have many friends!

You won't lose good friends. Some people in the parish may need a friend.

If you are part of a network where everybody knows at least 12 families well, wouldn't that create a strong sense of community in the parish?

## How does this benefit the parish?

Interactions and friendships within your Passionist Family Group will bring a happy, loving spirit to your parish.

Experience shows that PFGs are a great asset because they help people feel they belong and in turn they want to contribute to the life of the parish.

## History of the Passionist Family Group Movement

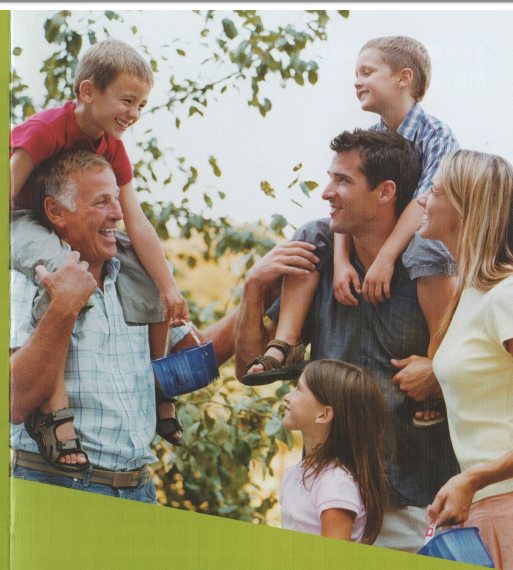
The Family Groups began in 1973 as an inspiration of Father Peter McGrath CP in the developing parish of St Anthony in the Fields, Terrey Hills, an outer suburb of Sydney.

Peter and others set about preserving the original community spirit when people knew each other by name and shared each other's joys and struggles. Other parishes wanted this same spirit and a Movement developed across Australia, New Zealand and also reached the UK, Ireland and the USA.

Being a Passionist, Peter guided the Movement with a down-to-earth, practical and friendship-based spirituality. Peter used to describe it as "a matter of the heart".

Following Fr Peter's death in 2018, a National Co-ordinating Team has been leading the Movement with Fr Brian Traynor CP as its advisor. Today, effective and committed leaders across many dioceses are continuing this ministry that began nearly 50 years ago.

Passionist Family Groups continue to encourage, support, and welcome parishioners into small groups within the wider parish and give members a greater sense of belonging which is a need in the Church.



## Passionist Family Group Movement

### For More Information Contact

[www.pfgm.org](http://www.pfgm.org)

### Passionist Family Group Movement

### Southern Team

Email: [pfgm.victas@gmail.com](mailto:pfgm.victas@gmail.com)

Ph: 0457 68 58 35

### Matters of the Heart



## The Passionist Family Group Movement

Have you heard this before? "How could I be more involved in our parish!" or "I wish I really knew some of the people I see in the church." Or maybe you've said to yourself: "How can we show our children what it means to be really Christian?"

## Changing Faces into Names and Names into Family

Nearly everyone finds it difficult to meet new people. There are many parishioners from other countries in most parishes. How do they get a sense of welcome and belonging?

A Family Group helps break down barriers and really get to know others so that we can look out for each other and build community.

## What are the Aims of the PFGM?

We want people to feel welcomed in their parish and to have a true sense of belonging. We want members to accept and appreciate each other and to support each other in times of need and to assist people to live their faith in a truly practical way.

## Are Family Groups Social or Religious?

For Jesus, social getting together and sharing was religious and 'faith' is caught more than 'taught'. There is a lot 'faith catching' in Family Groups. Many people who have felt alienated now feel connected with the church.

## Do I have to be Holy?

You experience true holiness by creating an environment where people can be themselves and respond to others' everyday needs.

## Who will be in my Family Group?

A Family Group is made up of 10 - 12 families. Many of these will be couples or single adults. Everyone is welcome to join. Family Groups are for all.

## What happens in a Passionist Family Group?

Strangers become friends. Faces become names and names become family. Groups gather once a month (e.g. a picnic, barbecue, a shared meal, etc) to enjoy being with one another and gradually members develop supportive relationships that are as strong as any true family. Some groups have had a cross section of ages, including children. While there are still many such groups, there are also Family Groups with senior adult members who have been together for many years and who have become a family.

## How committed do I have to be?

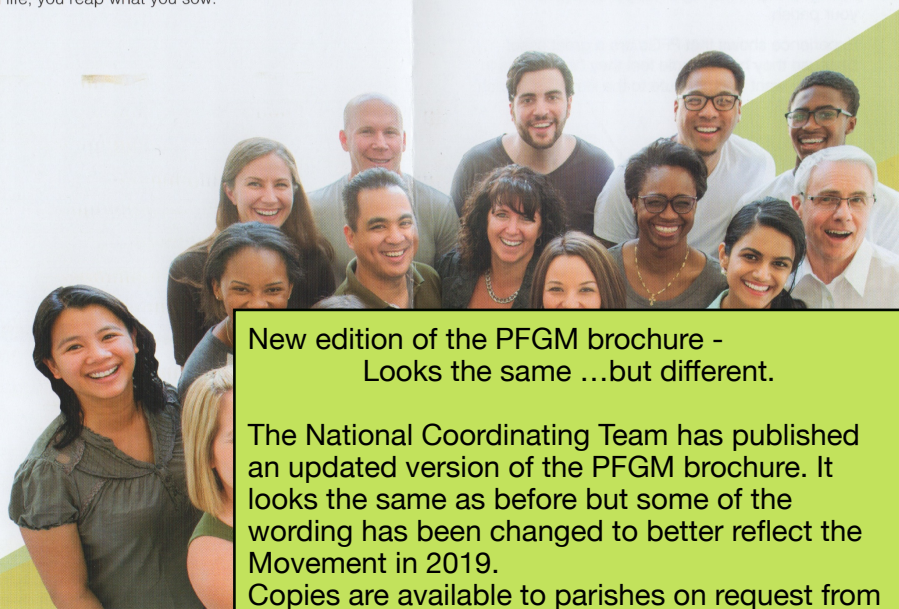
A Family Group is just like any family; members care for one another. Sometimes extra effort is needed. As in life, you reap what you sow.

## What can I give to a Family Group?

Yourself! You can give your friendship, support, care and time to other members of your group. Just be yourself. You can sit down and talk, share and listen to others. As friendships grow a sense of responsibility for each other is created. If you can bring a sense of fun, that will always be appreciated!

## What if I'm not Catholic or I am single or divorced?

The Passionist Family Group motto is "A Family for All". Groups provide an extended family for anyone who wishes to belong, whatever their faith tradition or whether they be married, single or divorced. Everyone is welcome to join. Please do!



New edition of the PFGM brochure -  
Looks the same ...but different.

The National Coordinating Team has published an updated version of the PFGM brochure. It looks the same as before but some of the wording has been changed to better reflect the Movement in 2019.

Copies are available to parishes on request from the Southern Team: 0457 68 58 35



# The family you make

-an excerpt from *Australian Catholics* Spring 2019 edition

Trish and Roger Gurney migrated from Zimbabwe in 2003 and were looking for ways to connect with people in their Victorian Our Lady of the Pines Parish and in the local area when they heard about the Passionist Family Group Movement.

Trish, newly arrived in Australia, was eight months pregnant with her son, Ryan, and they had a toddler, Emma.

'We had one family member here, my brother, but his kids were a lot older,' Trish says.

'When we heard about the Family Groups we thought that would be a way of getting to know people and to get involved in parish. It has been great.'

## Something for Everyone

Passionist Family Groups commit to meeting once a month. Trish says that she and her husband have tried hard to be innovative with the things they have done in their group.

"The ethos is to keep it cheap so that everyone can participate."

'It was good to be with people who were going through the same joys and tribulations of children...Being part of a group meant members had people to call on if something good, or bad, was happening in their lives.'

As in any family, different people do different things, but once a month the whole group gets together.

*Trish and Roger Gurney are members of the Passionist Family Group Movement's Southern Team and we thank Trish for her willingness to share their story with Michele Frankeni at the Australian Catholics magazine. Michele had approached the PFGM for information and a representative who was prepared to be interviewed.*



*Trish and Roger with their children*



*Below: The Gurneys celebrate St Patrick's Day with their Family Group*

### **PFGM Southern Team:**

*Frances & Michael Sullivan - Montmorency (Melbourne Metro)*

*Alison & Tony Woolley- Warrnambool (South West)*

*Trish & Roger Gurney- Donvale (Melbourne Metro)*

*Gail & Hank Fiddelaers - Trafalgar (Gippsland)*

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[www.pfgmovement.org.au](http://www.pfgmovement.org.au) (Southern)  
[www.pfgm.org](http://www.pfgm.org) (National)



