

Family

PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT NEWSLETTER
SPECIAL EDITION – MARCH 2018

Groups

Father Peter McGrath R.I.P

While it is a blessing that Fr Peter's suffering has come to an end, there is also a deep sadness in our hearts.

There are many tributes to our dear Fr Peter. The following are just a sample of those that have been received from around the globe.

I too share your sadness on the death of Peter. It is a death in the Family, for through the Family Groups we are family, sharing the joys and the sadness. Peter had a deep love for Jesus, a love that was infectious, a love that now holds us together as he would want us to. I was privileged to know him, to welcome him into two parishes, one in which the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester was a parishioner. When I saw him (Peter) laughing with and at Fr Peter's unique style of ministry I knew that Fr Peter was giving a legacy to the Church that is needed in our time. It is quite ironic that the Gospel this Sunday is Jesus

cleansing the temple and shaking the authorities up!

We all need shaking up! I will be remembering Fr Peter at this evening Mass, and all his family and friends. May he rest in peace.

Fr Pat Munroe
Stockport



A Mass will be celebrated at St Brigid's Church Marrickville on Wednesday evening March 7th at 7.00pm.

A Mass will be celebrated at St Anthony in the Fields Church, Myoora Rd, Terrey Hills on March 8th at 10.30am

Fr Peter McGrath CP

Fr Peter passed away on Saturday 3rd March at 11.25 (Sydney Time) at the War Veterans' Home, Tobruk Unit. Peter was 78 years old on his last birthday. Peter was 58 years professed and 53 years ordained.

Peter's passing was very gentle. For the last few weeks as Peter became visibly weaker, he was on a morphine pump, which alleviated some of his agitation and added to his peacefulness.

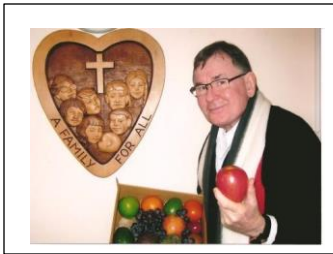
On the Saturday morning Peter had been with his sister, Anne, Sr Leonie and Marion who played quiet music and read to him. The book Marion was reading was "A Portrait of Jesus" by Joe Girzone, Peter loved his writing. The chapter was "New Life, New Hope". "This is you Peter", she said to him and began to read. Peter closed his eyes and Marion had noticed Peter had fallen asleep. In fact, he had gone to join his parents, Joe and Dorothy, his younger sister Helen, our Passionist brothers and sisters and so many more in Heaven.

When I reached Tobruk Peter's family and friends had also arrived. Together we prayed the Prayers for the Deceased with and for Peter. We anointed him for those present and for the many others who had cared for him.

Fr Tom CP

Provincial Superior

Taken from Passionist Provincial Bulletin



Tributes to Father Peter



Dear Friends,

I know our great love, admiration and respect for this legend of a man and Priest. I pray all who loved and supported him and for those like me who have been greatly inspired by creating community through Family Groups in our various parishes and in the very lives we live each day.

RIP Fr Peter ... Patty

I am sorry I cannot be with you at Peter's funeral. I will most certainly be there in spirit. I believe it is Peter's influence both directly and indirectly that probably had the most influence on my belief in God. That there is a piece of God in every one of us and that by loving and spending time with one another brings God to our lives. Marcus

My heart feels a loss with the passing of my dear friend Peter and yet there is a relief to know he is at peace with his God.

Like many others Peter changed my life around when he accepted me, a divorced woman, and my family into the beautiful community at Terrey Hills.

He brought Jesus to me in many special ways. I am privileged to have shared in his journey and traveled the back roads promoting the Passionist Family Group Movement. I will hold all the memories close to my heart. Sending my love and prayers to all.

Gwen

Dear Friends

We join your sadness for our dear friend Fr Peter. What a long and tortuous journey he has had - all our Family Groups are holding him in their prayers today.

We have been spending the day with a heavy heart - reminiscing and laughing about a great man whom we loved like so many people and called a "loveable rogue". You just never knew what was coming next!

He has touched our lives and left us all with a most wonderful legacy which we will always be grateful for. I am certain heaven will be a very different place when he gets there - and he will! May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

Christine and Vince

Pope Francis tweeted: We can support one another, and face every kind of challenge with courage and hope, when we draw our strength from Jesus.

To Our Dear Family Group

Peter as many of you know started the Passionist Family Groups which is now a worldwide movement where people are challenged to live their faith not just in words but in their everyday interactions with the people in their lives; but like many remarkable people, he had to fight many demons - the last being the onset of dementia.

He had been very sick for some time now and was very close to death this past week or so - but rallied round, confounding everyone.

He is now with his Creator - and Heaven will now have an extra special loving sparkle which is the magic of Fr Peter McGrath. I am sure you will agree when I say, we owe him so much.

Please remember him in your prayers.

Dorothy

- Many people walk in and out of your life, but only true FRIENDS will leave footprints in your HEART.
 - Family Groups are one of the places where people become friends and indeed leave footprints in our heart.
 - There is still so much work to be done.
- Thank you, Peter, for your earthly ministry where you shared your vision and passion with so many.

You have left footprints in our hearts forever.

Taken from a prayer from Family Groups at St Brigid's Marrickville

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