



Connecting the Passionist Family Groups around Australia in 2018

This year has seen some of the changes within the leadership structure of the Passionist Family Group Movement settle into a pattern.

On 3 March this year, Fr Peter went home to the Lord. Many members of the Movement came together at his funeral to give thanks to God for his life and for the gift of Passionist Family Groups that Fr Peter gave to us all.

The National Coordinating Team has tried to make contact across all areas where Family Groups have been established. We have been delighted to speak to many parish coordinators who tell us that Family Groups in their parish are having get togethers on a regular basis and that everyone really enjoys their Family Group. We are also aware that there are some issues that need addressing eg who will take some of the leadership roles, can we find some younger people to join Family Groups and so on.

We are now in the Season of Advent and preparing for Christmas. As we reflect on 2018 and look forward to 2019, we acknowledge and appreciate all the support and encouragement that has been shown us.

Check out www.pfgm.org for more stories and news

We wish you the joy, peace and love that this time of Christmas brings.



Gwen and Russell Winterscheidt (Northern Team)
 Brian Traynor CP Advisor
 Mary and Dennis Morris (Central Team)
 Frances and Michael Sullivan (Southern Vic/Tas Team)



"I am praying that the blessed Solemnity of Christmas will be celebrated for you every day, even every moment in the interior temple of your soul."

Saint Paul of the Cross
 Founder of the Passionist Order.





A Message from the Founder of the Passionist Family Group Movement Fr Peter McGrath RIP

We found this Christmas letter recently and thought it is worth printing again!

Fred from the Ridge (Lightning Ridge) was so happy to tell us about his mate, Curly. "Dear Curly has seen the light. He's taking the Twelve Steps and it's never felt better." Fred continued, "I asked Curly what was his new goal in life, for himself? What was he going to aim to be?" Curly replied, "Fred now my head is clear, I WANT TO BECOME THE PERSON THAT MY DEAR OLD DOG ALWAYS THOUGHT I WAS"

Now that is a very deep statement. It talks about a down to earth spirituality that only is understood by people who have been down at heel and had really hard times. It says a lot about unconditional love and it's really talking about God. Actually, if you are dyslexic, dog and God are co terminus.

His dear old dog would come back to him no matter how he treated him, because the dog loved him unconditionally. I feel we often have too exalted idea of our God of Love, revealed in a CHILD this Christmas. Our God keeps coming back, no matter how we treat Him. He loves us to the end. Maybe that is the true message of Christmas.



Australian Formation - Date Claimers 2019

Northern Team

Albany Creek 9-10 February
Fr Ray Sanchez

Bundaberg Catholic Parishes 9-10 March
Fr Ray Sanchez, Jeanelle & Denis Bergin

Armidale Diocese 29 March – 3 April
Gwen & Russell

Rosedale 6 April St Peter's
Fr Ray Sanchez

Port Macquarie "Saint Agnes" 4 May
Fr Ray Sanchez

Nth Queensland – 16 June
Gwen & Russ

Family Group Day, The Fort 4 August All Welcome
Fr Ray Sanchez

A Day and Evening at The Fort 2 Nov
Fr Ray Sanchez – All Welcome

More dates coming soon



Central Team

Adelaide 2 February
Fr Brian Traynor CP

Canberra/Goulburn 24 February
@ Holy Spirit Parish Centre, Gungahlin
Fr Brian Traynor CP

Wagga Wagga 15-16 June
Fr Brian Traynor CP

Parramatta Diocese 10-11 August
Fr Ray Sanchez CP

Newcastle Maitland 9-10 November
Fr Ray Sanchez CP

Broken Bay Diocese 12-13 November
Fr Ray Sanchez CP

Sydney Archdiocese 14-15 November
Fr Ray Sanchez CP

Wollongong Diocese 16-17 November
Fr Ray Sanchez CP

Southern (Victoria and Tasmania) Team

Formation Weekend 29-31 March - Holy Cross Templestowe.

You are warmly invited to the residential weekend for VicTas PFGM coordinators, leaders and interested PFGM members. This time together will provide an ideal opportunity for relaxed re-connection, conversations, reviewing and planning facilitated by Fr Brian Traynor CP, a talented and personable presenter. The cost for this weekend is just \$60 per person. This charge will cover accommodation with breakfast for two nights (Friday and Saturday) together with an evening meal on Friday and lunch and dinner on Saturday. The core activities will take place on Saturday, March 30 but connecting and socialising are encouraged on the Friday evening and Sunday morning. If you plan to travel by public transport, we will be happy to arrange to collect you from the nearest railway station (Heidelberg) or to make other arrangements as needed. NOTE: The State Team will be inviting registrations for the Formation Weekend early in 2019.

