



Passionist Family Group Movement - Victoria/Tasmania

NEWSLETTER May, 2018

Farewell Fr Peter McGrath

Since our last newsletter, much has happened within the Passionist Family Group Movement nationally. After his death in March, our founder, Fr Peter McGrath was farewelled at a wonderful funeral service that was joyful, but tinged with sadness.

Thank you to those who sent messages of sympathy to the Team and to the Passionists' Provincial, Fr Tom McDonough.

We were especially touched to receive a beautiful handmade card and candle that was displayed on a memorial altar in the parish of Our Lady Help of Christians, East Warrnambool over the weekend following Fr Peter's death. We used these again, pictured here, as part of a memorial display during the national "Seeds of Hope" formation weekend in April.



National Formation Weekend "Seeds of Hope" 27 - 29, April 2018

A very purposeful National Formation Weekend entitled "Seeds of Hope" was held at Holy Cross, Templestowe in April. PFGM State Leadership Team representatives attended from many parts of Australia, including all members of our VicTas State Team together with a couple from New Zealand. The weekend, facilitated by Philomena Billington, generated optimism and purpose as we reviewed and planned for the future of the Movement in Australia. (A summary of the weekend can be found in the PFGM National newsletter sent out to you earlier this month.)

The VicTas State Team

We have included photos of your PFGM State Team members so that you know who we are. We are endeavouring to meet with as many Family Group coordinators and leaders as is possible either at Cluster meetings or Parish visits. When distance is a challenge, we are trying to make phone contact. We are happy to attend PFGM celebrations, e.g. anniversaries, if possible and we welcome news and photos of your special events.



Alison & Tony Woolley
Warrnambool



Roger & Trish Gurney
Donvale



VicTas State Team 2018



Michael & Frances Sullivan
Montmorency



Hank & Gail Fiddelaers
Trafalgar

VicTas Formation Weekend in 2019 - A warm invitation to gather

In our encounters and meetings with PFGM coordinators across Victoria and Tasmania, many have expressed their interest in, and in some cases, the need for an opportunity to meet together with other PFGM leaders to gain nourishment, support and motivation through sharing their stories and experiences of family Groups 'on their patch'. Residential Formation Weekends have achieved this and much more over the years and The Team plans to hold our next Formation Weekend from 29-31 March in 2019.

Please see the flyer on the next page for an outline and do, please, **Save this Date!** More information to follow.

An Invitation

SAVE this DATE:

March 29 - 31, 2019



FORMATION WEEKEND

for ALL VicTas

*Passionist Family Group Coordinators and Leaders
and interested Family Group members*

to be held at

**HOLY CROSS RETREAT CENTRE
Serpells Road, TEMPLESTOWE 3106**

*Our facilitator will be Fr Brian Traynor CP
whom many of you will know.*

Brian is a talented and inspiring speaker

Our aim is to provide stimulating opportunities for meeting and sharing with others our Family Group stories, re-energising and planning for the future, all at a minimal cost to the participants.

Proposed Program

Friday, March 29: Gather in the late afternoon. Dinner & social evening

Saturday, March 30: Facilitated Formation Program & Eucharist

Sunday, March 31: Brunch and review

Please circulate this **SAVE THE DATE** information to all your Family Group Leaders, potential Leaders/Coordinators and all PFGM members who may be interested in attending.



Bellarine Cluster - 20th Anniversary at Nazareth Parish

PFGM Family Group members of Nazareth Parish recently celebrated their 20th anniversary at Torquay. It was a friendly, happy Family Group celebration organised by Jill & Bob Healy. The three groups' leaders spoke very positively of the support that Family Groups have given in their lives and to the life of their parish. Parish Priest, Fr Linh Tran, an enthusiastic supporter of Family Groups, acknowledged their contribution to the building of community within his parish. (Alison and Tony Woolley attended this celebration on behalf of the State Team.)

Pictured cutting the celebration cake are Betty Dangerfield (Grovedale), Sheila Currie (Torquay) and Ollie Matheson (Torquay), the most senior ladies who attended the PFGM's 20th anniversary celebration.



Combined Passionist Family Picnic on Sunday 18th March in Strathdale Park, Bendigo, despite a strong wind that prevailed during our lunch time. Nevertheless, it did not dampen at all the spirit of all who were present, enjoying each others company and celebrating 24 years of Passionist Family Gatherings in Kennington Parish.

Ian Holmes asked us to remember our founding Passionist family priest.



Fr Peter McGrath started the concept of Passionist Family Group in NSW. Fr Peter McGrath was here at the mission to launch family groups in the parish in 1994. Fr. Peter McGrath passed away on 3rd March at the age of 76 years.



Mgr Frank Marriott, then Parish Priest, was instrumental in realising the benefits of having the Passionist Family group, which eventuated in July 1994.



18th March 2018

THE COMBINED PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUPS OF KENNINGTON PARISH PICNIC DAY IN MARCH, 2018

Best wishes, State Team, PFGM VicTas