



## Passionist Family Group Movement - Victoria/Tasmania

### NEWSLETTER July, 2018

Greetings to all our Family Group friends across Victoria and Tasmania. We hope that you are keeping warm during these cold, winter months when many groups choose to gather in friendship over warming meals indoors.

This NEWSletter contains, as its name suggests, some items of news from a number of PFGM parishes. However, there are a couple of reminders first:

#### **Annual Report Forms - Request**

Copies of the revised Annual Report Form 2018 were posted to all coordinators in June and we ask that these be completed and returned as soon as possible, please. THANK YOU TO THE MANY COORDINATORS WHO HAVE RETURNED YOUR FORMS ALREADY. We know that completing this form may seem to be a tedious task, especially if the information has not changed much. However, the current form enables us to gather the most recent information to help keep our records current.

Your completed form can be returned in the stamped, addressed envelope provided or scanned and emailed to the PFGM VicTas address below. If you have misplaced your form, another can be downloaded from our VicTas website: <http://www.pfgmovement.org.au>

#### **VicTas Formation Weekend, March 29 - 31, 2019**

You are warmly invited to the residential weekend for VicTas PFGM coordinators and leaders to be held at the Passionists' Holy Cross Centre in Templestowe from March 29 - 31, 2019 (see <http://holycrosscentre.com/centre/>). This time together will provide an ideal opportunity for relaxed re-connection, conversation, 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 make other arrangements as needed.

We will be inviting registrations for the Formation Weekend early in 2019.

#### **PFGM National Coordinating Team (NCT) News**

A new website that caters for the Passionist Family Group Movement across Australia has just been launched. There may be some teething problems but the website is looking good and contains much interesting information. We encourage you to have a look, at:

**<http://www.pfgm.org>**

The NCT is working steadily towards unifying all PFGM procedures and policies across Australia, so we expect that, in the next year or so, our VicTas website information will be incorporated into this new national website. However, we will let you know when to expect this. Meanwhile, the NCT is meeting regularly through web conferences and has a two-day meeting planned to be held at Holy Cross (Victoria) in early August.

## Family Group Weekends Away

The Family Group members at **St Mary's, Rutherglen** in northern Victoria occasionally choose to go "off the beaten track", some towing their caravans, for their weekend away together. In April this year, they headed to West Wyalong in NSW. From that base, they drove on a long, rocky road to visit the unique, outback chapel of Christ the King on Farm 'Bolo'.

This circular chapel was built in 2008. It is decorated with beautiful frescoes including a magnificent domed ceiling. Rutherglen coordinator, Helen Briggs, said that her group were very impressed with this amazing place and enjoyed their pre-arranged visit very much. (For more information enter 'Farm Chapel Bolo NSW' on your internet search engine.)

*Right: The PFGM Rutherglen travellers visit the Chapel of 'Christ the King' in April 2018*



Earlier this year, one Family Group from **St Joseph's, Boronia**, chose to have a weekend away at Ballarat where they visited Sovereign Hill, the Botanical Gardens and the Art Gallery. Coordinator, John Faulkner commented that Family Group weekends away continue to provide the opportunities to have longer conversations, often one-on-one, with various group members that are not possible in just an evening or afternoon.

A number of other parishes' Family Groups have enjoyed weekends at the following venues:

- **Anglecrest in Anglesea**
- **Adanac Christian Youth Camp at Yarra Junction**
- **Stringybark Lodge camp at Gembrook**
- **Star of the Sea Guesthouse, Apollo Bay** (This venue is well suited to older people or those who require disabled facilities. It has ramps and no stairs.)

*When gathering at Cluster meetings and the various Family Groups' activities are discussed, it is sometimes suggested that we compile a list of places that Family Groups could visit on a day's outing. Of course, these need to be fairly local but here are some that may interest you if they are not too far from your patch.*

**Alowyn Gardens Yarra Glen:** this beautiful property, right beside the main road but hidden behind the trees, contains seven acres of different garden areas that can be explored at a very reasonable cost, e.g. as little as \$7pp for a group. There are a number of covered areas with tables and chairs that can be booked and used for eating a BYO lunch. An urn can be set up at a low cost for you to make your own tea/coffee. There is also a café that can provide various hot drinks.



**Port Arlington:** A couple of groups have made good use of free Seniors travel on weekends by catching a train to the city and then paying for the ferry to sail from Docklands to Port Arlington. One group pre-booked the **FREE** RSL shuttle-bus (seats about 12-14 people) to take them from the ferry stop, to and from the Port Arlington RSL for lunch, before sailing back to the city and catching the train home.

**Herring Island in the Yarra River:** Accessible only by boat, Herring Island in the Yarra River is just 3km from the city. The park is a haven for nature and art lovers alike. Environmental sculptures made from natural materials reflect the island's tranquil setting. BBQ facilities are available. A punt operates periodically from Como Landing during summer.

This island oasis is a wonderful place to visit with amazing views of the city so close by. One Family Group opted to visit this island a few years ago in the off season using a member's boat: the many transfers to and from the island provided much merriment! (Buoyancy vests are a must!!)

*\* We welcome reports and photos of any venues/activities that your Family Groups have enjoyed.*



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### ***SFX Parish Pastoral Council shows its appreciation***

The Parish Pastoral Council at St Francis Xavier Parish, Montmorency, invited its PFGM coordinators and the leaders of the parish's six Passionist Family Groups to be guests at a dinner held in the Parish house on a Friday, July 12. Three of the Parish Councillors cooked and served the meal and tidied up afterwards. Parish Priest, Fr Terry Kean, expressed his and the Parish's appreciation of the Movement's presence at SFX since 1995. He invited the guests to share stories and highlights of their PFGM experiences from across those years. This sharing elicited many recollections and anecdotes, variously humorous, enlivening, poignant and some sad, but all demonstrated that the Movement has provided the opportunity for friendship, support and a place for newcomers to be welcomed. This sharing helped two of the Parish Councillors, who have not belonged to one of the parish's Family Groups, to understand and appreciate the Movement's aims.

### ***Congratulations to all at:***

St James Parish, Sebastopol who celebrated 25 years with a special Mass and a parish morning tea followed by a lunch on Sunday, July 22, 2018.

St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe who will celebrate 25 years with a special mass followed by lunch on Sunday, August 12, 2018.

### ***Prayers please:***

*Please keep in your prayers those Family Group members across Victoria and Tasmania who are experiencing illness at this time and also those members who have died recently. It is always sad to lose a member of your Family Group after a friendship that has been forged over many years.*

**VicTas State Team:** *Frances & Michael Sullivan, Alison & Tony Woolley, Gail & Hank Fiddelaers, Trish & Roger Gurney*

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