

Passionist Family Group Movement

- A Ministry of the Passionists



SOUTHERN TEAM NEWSLETTER May, 2020

Since our February letter to you, 2020 took an unexpected turn. In mid-March, things changed rapidly: In the days around mid-March, many Family Group activities were cancelled, including:

- On March 14, re Lalor's 25th Anniversary, coordinator Rosemary wrote: *"We are very sorry to have our lunch cancelled due to the Corona Virus, our members decided to pull back and just attend the Mass. We agreed to have our lunch some other time after this calamity; everyone is scared so it was agreed that we go with the decision of the group."*
- On March 15, Rutherglen's coordinators, Helen & Ray, advised that their Group's planned annual St Patrick's Day dinner at a local winery on March 17th had to be cancelled.
- On March 17, it was decided, in consultation with Fr Rigo and Greensborough coordinators Pauline and Michael that, *"...it is prudent to postpone our planned Mass Talks to promote the Family Group Movement at all Masses in Greensborough, Greensborough North and Diamond Creek this coming weekend. Also, the planned Start-up BBQ which was to be held on Friday, March 27 is also postponed."*
- On March 19, Echuca coordinators Carmel & Ted wrote: *"As we do not know what the situation will be by the end of April (26th) we felt that it was appropriate to cancel... Hopefully, we will be able to request another Combined Mass with the Family Groups participating in the ministries."*
- Cancelled: PFGM National Coordinating Team's weekend meeting at Holy Cross, March 27-29.
- However, on a more positive note, just before restrictions in Wendouree Parish, Coordinator Vin wrote regarding their 20th Anniversary: *"We had the usual Sunday Mass celebration with petitions for the Family Groups in the Prayers of the Faithful and Family Group members being involved in the various ministries. Prior to the final hymn I spoke a little on the history of Family Groups and then the four Family Group leaders Tony & Pauline, Margaret & Geoff with Sandra and myself cut the cake accompanied by enthusiastic singing of Happy Birthday led by Fr. Marcello. Following the Mass we had a cuppa in the Church foyer for the whole parish."*



Now, for some 10 weeks or so, we have been experiencing social isolation. This has been a trial for many and, perhaps, a respite for others. For those who look forward to Sunday Mass for spiritual and social fulfilment and the bonding with community that this brings, you may be feeling quite bereft. Fortunately, some parishes and, certainly, our Passionist friends, have offered streamed or pre-recorded Masses each week and this has helped us through a very different season of Easter. We will probably need this support still, as we celebrate the feast of Pentecost and the following weeks.

Heartening emails, like these below, regarding these Masses were much appreciated:

"Thank you. We appreciate these links and they help members to keep in touch with parish." Anne (Sebastopol)

Thanks. I keenly await the vimeo links from Marrickville and Templestowe each Saturday afternoon to post to the parish website... Keep up the good work. Our Family Group Sunday morning Coffee and Zoom sessions are continuing strongly and this morning we are expecting all four members of the Passionist community at St Joseph's to join in with us." Michael (Hobart)



Many thanks for giving us the opportunity to be with you. It is greatly appreciated. Patricia (Malvern)

Thank you, a beautiful Mass, as usual. Dawn (Doncaster East)

Thank you again for sending us this link. We forward it to all our Family Group members and a number of others. We greatly appreciate this. Best wishes to you, Fr Chris and the whole team. Anne & Patrick (Portland)

We trust that the members of your Family Group have found some creative ways to stay in touch and support each other during this time. God bless and may you keep well and safe until we can gather again.

International Family Group 20th Anniversary

This was celebrated on Sunday, May 3 this year. A pre-recorded Mass was prepared by the PFGM Northern Team and celebrated by Fr Ray Sanchez CP in Brisbane. You can view the Mass and/or the featured hymn 'Hearts on Fire' by Michael Mangan which is accompanied by many uplifting photos of Family Group events in a number of countries over the years at www.pfgm.org

The links are at the bottom of the first page.



Funerals during Covid-19 restrictions

This morning, a necessarily small funeral was held in our parish for a wonderful woman who had demonstrated her faith quietly and positively in many ways throughout her life, including leadership with her husband of a Family Group for many years. Her family, and many fellow parishioners and friends, would have loved to have filled the church to participate fully and actively in her farewell funeral Mass. As this was not possible, word was spread throughout the parish to invite people to form a Guard of Honour (maintaining social distance, of course). As the hearse left the church slowly for the cemetery, parishioners who lined the street applauded. It was very moving. Afterwards, the flower we each had brought along was given to the Funeral Director to be placed on our friend's grave.

I am sure that many who are reading this have had a friend, family member, colleague or acquaintance pass away in recent months and have not been able to be physically present to support the deceased's loved ones.

For some, there will be a 'celebration of life' or similar in the future. Meanwhile, we pray that all who have died during this time, rest in the love and peace of Christ.

- Frances Sullivan

SAVE the DATE!

March 26-28, 2021

As in 2019, the Southern Team plans to hold an energating and enjoyable weekend at Holy Cross, Templestowe, on the last weekend in March 2021. All Family Group coordinators, Parish group leaders/coordinators and any interested FG members are welcome to attend. It will be time of sharing, reviewing and re-energising in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. The Saturday program will be facilitated by Fr Brian Traynor CP.

Anniversary Congratulations:

May -	Sandringham	30 years
June -	Sale Cathedral Casterton	10 years 20 years

Annual Reports 2020

Each year, we ask the coordinators in each Family Group Parish to complete an Annual Report that provides the Southern Team with up-to-date information about the number of Family Groups in their parish and the number of members in each group. We also ask for the latest Parish information, e.g. Parish Priest, contact details, etc. This information ensures that our records remain current and helps us with communication so that information gets to you and your Parish promptly and to the right person. We like to include your PP/Parish Office in all relevant Family Group emails and newsletters from the PFGM.

Despite the restrictions on Family Group activities recently in 2020, we will be asking for Annual Reports again at mid-year when these will be sent by post to all Family Group coordinators.

With best wishes from the Southern Team:

Alison & Tony Woolley, Gail & Hank Fiddelaers,
Trish & Roger Gurney, Frances & Michael Sullivan