

# Family Groups



## PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT

*A Ministry of the Passionists*

NEWSLETTER WINTER 2022

To our Passionist Family Group family.....

*Greetings from the National Team!*

This is a very special time of celebration for our professed Passionist friends. Recently, on July 11, 2022, the Passionists celebrated the centenary of their Holy Spirit Province made up of Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam.

The Passionist Order was founded by Saint Paul of the Cross in 1720. At profession, in addition to the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, Passionists take a fourth vow: “... to recall and promote the memory of the most holy Passion of Jesus Christ in the hearts of the faithful”. This charism is the originating, core inspiration of the Passionist Congregation and the wider Passionist Family. It is the primary motivation of the Passionists’ life and mission.

We, in the Passionist Family Group Movement, are beneficiaries of that Charism. When Father Peter McGrath CP formed the first Passionist Family Group at Saint Anthony of the Fields Parish, Terrey Hills in 1973, he was imparting to its members the Charism of the Passionists.

Fr Peter did this by enabling his parishioners to truly know each other and so share each other’s pain and suffering (as well as their joys) and, in so doing, discover our God in the ordinariness of life. *Consequently, through our aims to know one another, to support each other and to give example to our children, we are able to reflect the Passionist Charism in our lives.* It is only by truly knowing one another that we can “love one another as I have loved you”.

May the Passion of Jesus be always in our hearts.

*Celine, Trish, Mary, Roger, Frances, Russell, Michael, and Dennis*

## “Commemorating the Centenary”

Celebrating 100 Years of  
Our Journey as a Province







*Family Fun*  
Our Lady of the Rosary  
Parish  
**KENMORE**  
in **BRISBANE**

*'This is our Passionist Family Group with our young adults having fun at our April 2021 gathering for lunch.'* Jen Thomas, Coordinator



*The fun included an ANZAC day trivia competition. There were three very competitive groups but the adults managed to secure a win by 1 point -so a very close finish.*

Editor's note: Apologies to Kenmore's FG Coordinator, Jen Thomas, for the significant delay in publishing the report of this delightful event.





## *St Joseph's Parish,*

### *Warrnambool*

*(now part of Star of the  
Sea Parish, South West  
Coast, Victoria)*

Parish FG Coordinator, Chris  
Thompson welcomes guests



Fr John Fitzgerald  
congratulates the Family  
Group members.



# 30 years



Warrnambool Family Groups' oldest  
surviving member, Bernadette  
McInerney, happily cut the celebration  
cake. Bernadette recently celebrated  
her 96th birthday.

*On a glorious afternoon of sunshine, the  
members of the seven Family Groups at St  
Joseph's in Warrnambool gathered to  
celebrate their 30th Anniversary with a  
delightful afternoon High Tea. Both their Parish  
Priest/Moderator, Fr John Fitzgerald, and Co-  
pastor, Fr John Corrigan, joined in to celebrate  
with them.*

*The Parish's current PFGM coordinators, Jane  
and Chris Thompson, decorated the hall  
beautifully and included much memorabilia.  
Group members who have passed away were  
honoured with a Remembrance slide show.*



The afternoon included a  
verbal report from each  
of the seven Family  
Groups.



## **Rutherglen Parish Northern Victoria: Regular after Mass Sunday Coffee catch-up**



Members of the Rutherglen Family Group  
gather each Sunday after Mass at a local  
cafe to chat and catch up.  
Each year, Coordinators Helen & Ray Briggs,  
have a well-planned calendar of monthly  
activities which their Family Group members  
embrace enthusiastically.

*In 2022, these include:*

- Pizza & Games Night
- Open Day Mt Carmel- shared platters at Pickled Sisters
- Silo Art Trail & lunch at Gooramboot Hotel
- Stone grill, Corowa
- Croquet in Wangaratta
- BYO Picnic lunch by the river
- Cruise on Lake Mulwala
- Cup Eve: chicken & champagne



## Central Team Annual Gathering May 2022



Around the room L to R: Tony Guterres, Marg Casey, Elizabeth Farrar, Paul Casey, Dennis Morris, John McGrath, Mary Morris, Annette Guterres, Dennis Farrar

The annual Central Team's days together took place in May during one of the big wets that have recently beset NSW. Fortunately the Christian Brothers' holiday house where we met was watertight though the surrounds were very soggy.

The Diocesan Coordinators from Canberra & Goulburn, Maitland-Newcastle, Parramatta, Sydney and Wollongong came together for mutual support, reflection and planning into the next year – we'd love it if a coordinator would emerge to join this team from the Broken Bay Diocese.

Once more we could all talk about the good news of the PFGM, the strong friendships that have developed among the group members, the sharing both of the happy times and those sadder and more difficult times and the various ways we maintained our connections during the difficulties that Covid 19 has brought. We also noted that many members are in the older age bracket and not as agile as they once were. We did note too that 2023 will mark 50 years since the first Family Group met in Terrey Hills and suggested ways to honour this milestone.

We finished our time together with a renewed commitment to continue to support all our members and parishes and to continue to meet as this Team either by Zoom or in person.



Left side: Mary Morris, John McGrath, Dennis Farrar, Elizabeth Farrar  
Right Side(from front): Annette Guterres, Pauline McGrath, Paul Casey, Tony Guterres, Marg Casey



## ECHUCA celebrates 25+ years

In late April 2022, the Passionist Family Group members at St Mary's Parish in Echuca, Northern Victoria, enjoyed a celebration of their 25th Anniversary which was held-over from 2021 due to Covid. Southern PFGM Team members, Trish and Roger Gurney, attended the celebration. At two Masses that weekend at St Mary's, Trish spoke about the benefits of joining and belonging to a Family Group.

*Pictured cutting the anniversary cake, is 90 year-old, Margaret Oman, who was in her group for 25 years and a leader for about 20 of those. She retired as leader at a meeting last year but is still active in the Family Group and attends events.*



Left: Trish Gurney presented coordinators Carmel & Ted MacKenzie with a decorated PFGM candle at the Echuca celebration.

## "Are we too old?"

'We are too old' is an understandable and often repeated refrain within our Passionist Family Groups these days – especially from those who have been in leadership for some time.

No one should feel pressured in their older years to carry out tasks that they find burdensome. However, without minimising the importance of that reality, I'd like to offer another perspective.

There is a lot of talk today too, about, "I'll retire and do a lot of the things I've never had time to do". Again, that is perfectly understandable and proper, but it's a reality that most people in the world cannot afford and it reflects an attitude of an earned reward focusing on 'me', when there might be a call on us to spend some time helping others in the spirit of gospel living.

There has to be a healthy balance about this. Perhaps we could reflect on the reality that on average we are living thirty years longer than people were at the beginning of the twentieth century. What are we doing with those extra years? What is our attitude?

Maybe at eighty years of age we are still capable of doing some things that someone fifty-five was just managing back then. Maybe, despite our aches and pains, there are ways we can assist our Passionist Family Group.

Most groups that have spent many years together do not need an organiser-leader. They need someone(s) who will remind them of our aims, point us in the right direction, affirm our fellowship and ensure we celebrate our Christian belonging. You can be a 'bit old' and still do that.

Brian Traynor CP



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Fr Ray Sanchez chats with parishioner, Bernice, who plays an important role in coordinating the Stradbroke Island Mass Centre.

In May, the Northern Leadership Team gathered for meetings on Stradbroke Island (Minjeribah). To begin our time together we invited PFGM members and the local community to a Mini-Mission run by Ray Sanchez CP in the local Dunwich Church, St Paul of the Cross.



Rebecca, a PFGM member from The Fort, Oxley summed up the weekend: "The mini-mission on North Stradbroke Island with Fr Ray, The Passionist Family Group Movement and the local parishioners was refreshing: glad I went for the night. Despite the rain, it was great to be with the community and embrace the Passionist history on the Island."



L-R: Gwen, Russell, Celine, Pam & Mike Foale (Maleny), Shane, Alyssa, Leanne & Lachlan Hyland (Port Macquarie), Fr Ray, Rebecca O'Donoghue (The Fort).

PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT

# FAMILY CAMP

# 2022

## 3-DAY FAMILY CAMP

Celebrating Passionist Family Groups & connecting generations

Fun & formational activities run by the Passionist Youth Retreat Team and PFGM Team.

Arts & Crafts • Walks • Group Activities

### FRI 2<sup>ND</sup> - SUN 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPT

**BORNHOFFEN PCYC** 3510 Nerang Murwillumbah Rd, Natural Bridge

BRING YOUR FAMILIES, FRIENDS AND LET'S CELEBRATE.

Adults & Teens **\$125**  
Children Under 15 **\$70**

### BOOK YOUR TICKETS

Call Celine - 0416 027 482  
celinepfgm@gmail.com



SCAN HERE

**For Family Group people in the north-east of our country**

**For Family Group people in the South**

A weekend gathering for all Southern Passionist Family Group Parish Coordinators, Group Leaders and all interested PFGM members will be held at:

**HOLY CROSS RETREAT TEMPLESTOWE  
ON THE WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 11-13, 2022**

Our friend and great PFGM supporter, Fr Brian Traynor, will facilitate at our weekend.

The weekend's theme:

*Celebrating & Nurturing what FGs Offer:  
A Family for All*

Enquiries to Frances: [pfgm.victas@gmail.com](mailto:pfgm.victas@gmail.com)  
Ph: 0457 685 835



## An excerpt from Provincial, Fr Tom McDonough's letter celebrating the Centenary of the Foundation of the Passionists' Holy Spirit Province

Dear brothers, sisters, and friends in the Passionist Family

On Monday July 11th, we commemorate the day, one hundred years ago, that the Sacred Congregation of Religious in Rome formally and canonically established the Province of the Holy Spirit. We celebrate all those men and women who found the Holy Spirit had shaped their hearts with the Passionist Charism and who responded to that gift with such creativity, courage, generosity, faith and love. It is their stories we honour and celebrate over these coming months.

As our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island peoples remind us, with their sixty thousand years of story and dreaming, we must honour our past to create our future. We must acknowledge the story that has been ours, for the sake of the story that we are to become.

Over the next months, our Provincial Office and our Passionist family will till the soil of the future with rituals, institutes, stories, gatherings, resources, pilgrimages, and projects. Please stay alert for notifications on our Province website, our Province Facebook Page, on the Facebook and Websites of our individual communities, and those of our Passionist Companions, Passionist Family Groups, our Passionist Youth Retreat Teams, our parishes and the individual blogs and social media of individual religious.

As the journey continues, I remember the words of the Pope giving permission to our Holy Founder to realise his dream and found the Congregation. The Pope said that this latest congregation should in fact have been the first. I think we all agree .... We are proud to be Passionists.

In Christ Crucified

Tom cp Provincial Superior (On the feast of Blessed Pita ToRot)

### Holy Spirit Province Centenary Resources

Please find below the link to the Passionists' Province Website and four resources to celebrate our one hundred years as a province (July 11, 2022).

Prepared by Fr Brian Traynor, they focus on the Province in our three regions - Australia-Aotearoa, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea. Fr Brian has put an enormous amount of time - and his own personal research - into the project. Many thanks to Brian, and to Fr Giltus Mathias for his editing with Brian for Social Media.

Please share these resources with all who belong to and are interested in our Passionist Family.

Kind regards

Tom cp

Fr. Tom McDonough CP - Provincial Superior

"May the Passion of Jesus Christ be always in our hearts."

<https://www.passionists.com/100-anniversary/the-story>

*We pray...*

*...for all members of our Passionist Family Groups and, especially, for those who are unwell and all those affected emotionally, physically or financially by the effects of COVID throughout Australia and the rest of the world.*

*We pray for our Family Group members who have died recently and for their families & friends. Especially we remember Patricia Brincat, Family Group Coordinator at St Mary's Parish, Malvern East in Victoria, who passed away on July 20, 2022.*



For more about the Passionist Family Group Movement:

Website (Australia): [www.pfgm.org](http://www.pfgm.org)

Website (New Zealand): [www.passionistfamily.org.nz](http://www.passionistfamily.org.nz)

\*You can find a copy of each of our National PFGM Newsletters at our PFGM Website: [www.pfgm.org](http://www.pfgm.org)  
We invite contributions to our Newsletters from our many Passionist Family Group members.

Please email articles for inclusion to:

[pfgm.victas@gmail.com](mailto:pfgm.victas@gmail.com)

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