

Family Groups

PASSIONIST
FAMILY GROUP
MOVEMENT



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A Ministry of the Passionists

SUMMER 2023/2024

To our Passionist Family Group Family... Happy New Year to you all from the National Coordinating Team!

As we welcome 2024 and begin a new year, we would like to thank you all for your support, your nurturing care of each other and for joining us in celebrating the life of Family Groups in 2023. Throughout the past year there were Family Groups that farewelled members to their eternal resting home, and we continue to keep you in our prayers and thoughts.

Last year, was a wonderful celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the formation of the first Passionist Family Group at St Anthony in the Fields parish, Terrey Hills, in 1973. There were also many milestones celebrated during the year, not only in Australia but also in New Zealand. 25, 30, 35 and even 40 year anniversaries were celebrated in parishes - wonderful reminders of the gift of Family Groups and how we are always open and welcoming of new members.

Last October, the National Team, together with the Diocesan Coordinator representatives from each state, Paul Traynor (New Zealand National Coordinator) and Fr Denis Travis CP (Provincial of the Passionists) all gathered at Holy Cross, Templestowe for a National Conference. Brian Traynor CP facilitated the weekend where we worked through our hopes, as well as the challenges we might face in 2024. We discussed how best to support Family Groups, acknowledging and working through the varied level of support that Family Groups may need, particularly as our membership ages. The energy within the group was powerful and engaging.



We look forward to a positive 2024 and working with you all, and we look forward to welcoming new members into our groups and new parishes into the Movement.

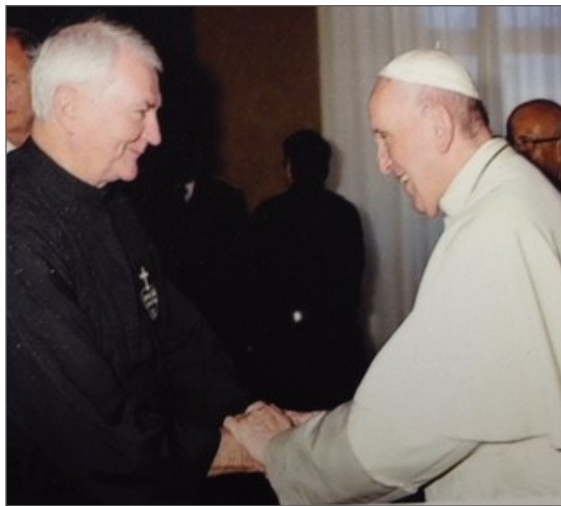
Wishing you many blessings for 2024,

Frances, Trish, Roger, Russell, Celine, Mary, Brian CP and Tina

Congratulations! 50th Anniversaries of Ordination

We congratulate our special PFGM pastor, friend and supporter, Brian Traynor CP, who celebrated the 50th anniversary of his Ordination to the priesthood on Friday November 24th, 2023. Brian's brother, Paul Traynor, who coordinates the PFGM in New Zealand, included this message in his newsletter at that time:

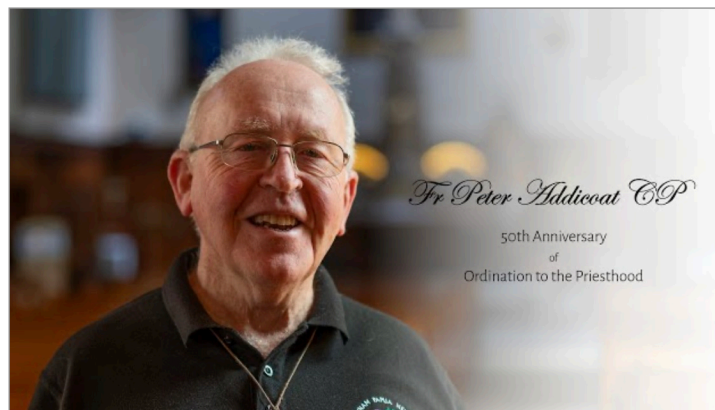
'I am sure that Pope Francis would say to Brian, "Well done, good and faithful servant."'
And, certainly, we would all agree with a strong, 'Hear! Hear!'



When Brian met the Pope some years ago



Brian with brother, Paul Traynor of NZ



Also, Peter Addicoat CP, long-time Parish Priest at our PFGM Parish of St Joseph in Hobart, TASMANIA celebrated his 50th Anniversary of Ordination on December 1, 2023.

We congratulate and thank these wonderful Passionist friends of the PFGM for their dedication and support of our Movement over many, many years.

Merri/Yarra Valley (Victoria) Christmas celebration - Victoria

The PFGM Coordinators from the Merri/Yarra Valley Cluster of Parishes, celebrated Christmas 2023 in the home of the Sacred Heart, Diamond Creek Parish Coordinators, Claire and Frank Ledda



Peace on earth and goodwill to all people

Christmas has passed for another year, and for the majority of people it is an entirely secular 'event'. For believers, it is a time of joy and fellowship. Families reunite and celebrate together, in this way enacting the meaning of the 'event'.

Luke tells us that the first ones to be told of Jesus' birth were shepherds looking after their flocks. This was hardly the group to be told such incredible news. Shepherds were labelled as sinners. Shepherds were despised by the religious leaders of the time. These shepherds travelled to Bethlehem to see what had been promised. Of course, the baby they saw would later describe himself as 'the good shepherd'!

That the news of God's full entry into humanity was told first to outsiders, foreshadowed what Jesus' message would be. He would urge people to see that everyone was called into a family and in that family, there would be no outsiders. It was to be a family for all.

At Christmas, we were reminded again of the message given to the shepherds in Bethlehem – *Peace on earth and good will to all people*. Jesus came for all – for everyone, and the fellowship he invited when lived truly, creates a kingdom of peace. This was God's dream for us. Every time we break the barriers of division, whether it be by including migrant families in our fellowship, or lonely single people, we bring that dream alive.

Let's not make this a Christmas event only, but a commitment throughout this year; that we will promote and actively seek to strengthen our Passionist Family Groups so that we live our motto – A Family for All.

- Brian Traynor CP

Celebrating Christmas Together: Dianella Parish, Western Australia

The Passionist Family Group members from the Our Lady of the Assumption Parish in Dianella, Western Australia, gathered to enjoy a Christmas outing together.



40th Celebration of Passionist Family Groups in Bardon, Queensland by *Suzanne Ginty*

On November 5th in 2023, we celebrated 40 years of the Passionist Family Groups in the Bardon Parish, Brisbane with Mass. Family Group members provided the Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Offertory Procession and other ministries.

It all began at the instigation of Russell & Gwen Winterscheidt and the invitation by Fr Peter McGrath to Father Vince Hobbs & Sister Chris Zamett. Fr Peter, together with a number of parishioners from Terrey Hills in Sydney travelled to Bardon to introduce Family Groups in September 1983. Three Groups were formed after three nights of information sessions ...and our journey began.

Obviously, there have been many changes over the years but we still have three functioning Family Groups in the Parish. These continue to offer a sense of belonging and a shared community spirit, nourishment built through regular social gatherings by groups of families, supporting each other in the good times and bad.

Although some of us no longer live in the Bardon Parish, we still come together at various times, in particular to organise the Christmas Hamper project each year. The Bardon Parish has been so generous in supporting this over the last 40 years.

The Moore, TI's & Rogers' Groups welcomed our Parish community to celebrate after Mass with some birthday cake, a chat and to reminisce over the many wonderful stories that have accumulated over the last 40 years.

Family Group members in Bardon Parish celebrate their 40 years' Anniversary with Mass and hospitality afterwards with members of their Family Groups and fellow parishioners.



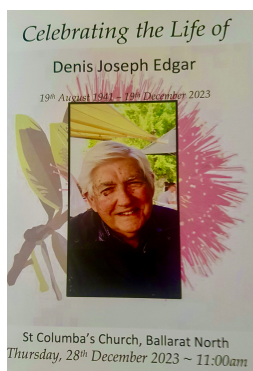
Building Community at Mill Park - Victoria

On Saturday 21 October Mill Park Parish celebrated their 31st Anniversary of Family Groups. The large attendance, included Parish Priest, Fr Anthony Girolami, for celebrations after Mass. This included dinner, face painting, dancing and performances by a singer and dancers.

Mill Park also has a new group that is pictured below celebrating a fun Christmas activity together.



In Memorium



We hold in our prayers all those who have died recently and, also their grieving family and friends.

*Especially, we remember
Denis Edgar of St Columba's Parish, Ballarat North in
Victoria who,
together with his wife, Shlirley, coordinated the Family
Groups there with love and care for many years.*



* Contributions to our National Newsletter are welcome, especially news of your Family Group events that you and your members have enjoyed. Photos always complement a good story so please send in photos of your events!

* Please send contributions to the editor, Frances, at pfgm.victas@gmail.com

For more about the Passionist Family Group Movement:

Website (Australia): www.pfgm.org

Website (New Zealand): www.passionistfamily.org.nz