

Family Groups

PASSIONIST
FAMILY GROUP
MOVEMENT



PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT

A Ministry of the Passionists

AUTUMN/WINTER 2025

To our Passionist Family Group Family...

Since our last newsletter, we have journeyed through the deeply meaningful time of the Triduum and Easter celebrations. We have also celebrated **Mother's Day**, taking a moment to acknowledge the incredible women who have nurtured and nourished our hearts with love, acceptance, compassion, and forgiveness.

In the midst of these events, celebrations and the special moments in each of our lives, we reflected on the passing of **Pope Francis**, who departed this world at 88 years of age on Easter Monday. His life of faith, humility and service has left a profound legacy. Then, on May 8, just two days after the Conclave began in order to select Francis' successor, the Church embraced its new leader, **Pope Leo XIV**, thus beginning a new chapter of spiritual guidance and unity. Pope Leo XIV is committed to continuing the legacy of Francis.

For some in the Southern States of Australia, a cold and rainy winter is a welcome relief after the long, hot summer. But for many, the shorter days, overcast skies, and layers of heavy clothing can feel like a real dampener. It can be tempting to stay indoors and skip social catch-ups which may include your Family Group's gatherings.

Let's keep connected—whether it's a simple phone call, dropping off a meal or arranging transport to help someone attend a Family Group gathering. These small gestures make a big difference to staying close and supporting one another when the weather is cheerless.

We are heartened and encouraged by you all and your ongoing work at being "Family" to each other.

Warmest Regards

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

We invite and welcome contributions to our Passionist Family Group Newsletter.

Please send your news/articles and photos to the editor at: pfgm.victas@gmail.com

**A copy of this Autumn/Winter 2025 Newsletter and previous PFGM Newsletters
can be found on our website: www.pfgm.org**

Diaconate Ordination of a Family Group Diocesan Coordinator - New South Wales

Congratulations to Shane Hyland and his family on his Ordination to the Permanent *Diaconate on Sunday 23 February. Shane and Leanne Hyland work together as our Family Group Diocesan Coordinators for Lismore and Armidale. Shane works as the Leader of Evangelisation for St Joseph's Regional College, Port Macquarie. Bishop Greg Homeming OCD, Bishop of Lismore, ordained Shane. The celebration included Fr Paul, Fr Prodencio and Fr Alejo Jr, as well as, six priests, and eight deacons. Two ministers from the Anglican Church were also involved. Visiting priests and deacons came from four dioceses.



Many Passionist Family Group members from across Port Macquarie and others who were visiting attended, offering their love and support for Shane and his family. Leanne commented:

"The atmosphere in the church was full of excitement, love and joy! It was a spirit-filled event that embraced us all. Being supported by our Family Groups was a true blessing"

Shane's formation took place within the Diocese of Broken Bay, under the guidance of Fr Jim McKeon, Gail Gill, and Deacon Peter McCullough. Shane thanks the Passionist Family Groups for their support, prayers and love during his formation, ordination and for the future of his ministry. Leanne and Shane look forward to ministering together in parishes across the Southern Deanery and in the Family Groups across Lismore and Armidale. Please keep Deacon Shane, Leanne and their children Joshua, Alyssa and Lachlan in your prayers.



**In the Catholic Church, ordination to the diaconate is a sacred rite where a man is ordained as a deacon, a minister of the Church, through the laying on of hands by a bishop. Deacons are called to serve the Church through the ministry of the word, worship, pastoral care, and charity. They can be married or single and their formation often includes a rigorous program focusing on human, spiritual, intellectual, and pastoral dimensions.*



30 years Celebration at St Luke's Lalor, Victoria

On Sunday 23rd March, the northern Melbourne parish of St Luke in Lalor, celebrated the 30th anniversary of the start-up of the Passionist Family Group Movement in their parish.

The PFGM was mentioned by Fr Luciano Toldo and prayed for during the 11:30am Mass. The Family Group members who were able to attend sat together and led the singing - which was lovely.

Just before the recessional hymn, the Family Group Leader, Bernadette Cowley, gave a short talk about Family Groups and then I was able to present certificates to Bernadette and Fr Luciano, in appreciation of their work for and support of their Family Groups.

It is always special to be able to celebrate with fellow Family Groups.

-Trish Gurney(Southern Team Leader)

A Chat about Burnside/Dulwich Family Groups - South Australia

In March this year, our National PFGM Leader, Tina Minichilli, met with Marie Sexton who, with her husband, Kevin, are the Family Group Leaders in the now combined parishes of St John Vianney, Burnside and St Peter Claver, Dulwich in Adelaide, South Australia. Tina and Marie's meeting was very congenial with much laughter as Marie shared her Family Group stories.

In 1991, there were six Family Groups and, of those, two continue to be active. The original Family Group Coordinators were John & Maryrose Anders, followed by Trish & Glyn Davies, then Joan & Peter O'Keefe. The Sextons have been leaders for 20 plus years, stepping up after the death of Joan O'Keefe. Joan's husband, Peter, now lives in Aged Care.

These committed and caring groups are aging but that does not prevent them from inviting others to join. The Sextons' Group is going strong and enjoys 6-7 functions a year.

Tina thanked Marie and her husband, Kevin for their dedication, saying: "You have been such wonderful and loyal Family Group leaders in South Australia for so many years."



Marie Sexton & Tina

Dorrie Celebrates her 100th Birthday - Victoria

A treasured member of our Family Group at **St Joseph's Warrnambool** recently celebrated her 100th birthday. **Dorrie Ryan** was one of the founding members of her Family Group over 30 years ago.

Dorrie was a strong and active member of her Warrnambool Family Group right up until the time she moved into her nursing home in Melbourne. Members of her Family Group travelled to Melbourne on her 100th Birthday to celebrate this momentous occasion with family and friends.

- Chris & Jane Thompson (Parish Coordinators)

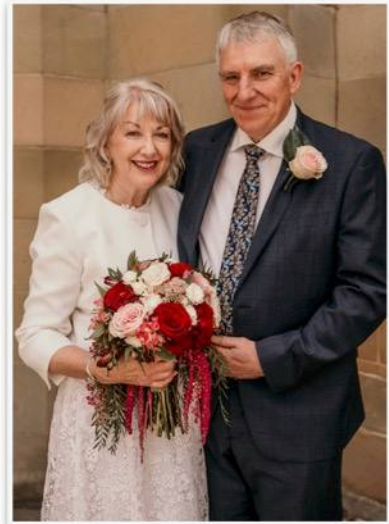


100!





Hobart, TASMANIA - Wedding Bells

CONGRATULATIONS to Judithe Richardson & Dennis Lanham, PFGM Coordinators at St Joseph's Hobart, who were married in their church on March 15, 2025. The ceremony was performed by Fr Peter Addicoat CP with Fr Justin, Fr Dominic and Fr Joseph concelebrating their Nuptial Mass.



COMPANIONS
INVITE YOU TO A





Day Out
TO
ABBOTSFORD CONVENT

JOIN US ON
28th JUNE
11AM
Meet at the tree in the front gate 1

TOUR PROVIDED
CUPPA & CHAT
JOIN US FOR A MORNING OUT

Saturday 28th June at 11am
Abbotsford Convent
1 St Heliers Street,
Abbotsford, VIC 3067

Paid Parking across the road from Abbotsford or street parking available on Clarke Street.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US

Thank you for your support of the Passionist Family Group Movement. Your donation allows us to assist the many Family Groups throughout Australia.

Family Groups provide a nurturing environment to help people get to know other members of their parish community and to support one another. Many people within Family Groups have witnessed and received blessings from the love and acceptance that they have experienced within their Family Group.

You can donate either by using our banking details below to donate with your debit/ credit card or go to our web site at **www.pfgm.org** and select **Support Us**

Banking details - Passionist Family Group Movement

BSB: 062 784 Account Number: 100 012 915

Contributions can be made via direct transfer or by cheque/money order, etc. Receipts will be provided for all donations: please provide appropriate details.

*Please note that the account is administered by the Holy Spirit Province of the Passionists and we are ineligible for Tax Deductable status.

Collecting but not sharing

Luigi Tarisio was born in Italy in 1790. He made a living repairing furniture, and having developed a fascination with violins, he taught himself to play and then set about acquiring discarded violins. He sold good violins so as to purchase better ones. In 1827 he purchased a violin that had been made by Antonio Stradiveri in 1716. Antonio had always declared that this violin was not for sale. Tarisio boasted so much about this very special violin, that a famous French violinist of the time said, "Your violin is like the Messiah: He is always expected, but never appears." That violin is now in the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford and it has hardly ever been played.

When Tarisio died he was clutching two violins and another 144 violins were crammed into cupboards and drawers. Among these violins was the famous 'Messiah'. It was virtually never seen or heard, despite its purpose having been to make beautiful music. By hiding it away from everyone and not playing it himself, Tarisio denied people the opportunity of hearing this beautiful instrument being played.

When you consider that each of us is a unique instrument, it is worth asking whether we hide the best ourselves that could be shared. In terms of Passionist Family Groups, have we become reclusive and although expected, never appear at monthly activities?

With winter upon us, 'not appearing' can be genuine 'excuse' because of the cold weather, but fancy being found one day alone and friendless, despite having had the personal capacity to reach out to others, to give and receive love and fellowship. That would be much worse than Tarisio's hiding his violins away.

Let us resolve to be seen and be heard!

- Brian Traynor CP

Ordination of Fr. Phi Anh Cao C.P. in Adelaide*

On Saturday, March 8th, Fr. Phi was ordained in St Paul's Church, Glen Osmond, by Archbishop Patrick O'Regan. This peaceful and very meaningful ceremony was live streamed for those who were unable to attend in person and was well supported by members of Phi's family accompanied by friends and parishioners of St Paul's Parish Glen Osmond/Parkside. Passionists from across the Province attended and Phi's classmates – Frs. Cong, Doan and Tuan Paul - assisted him in the First Mass on the Sunday.

Our thanks go to the Staff and Local Community of St. Paul's Retreat, Glen Osmond who made the entire weekend one of celebration and great hospitality. The Retreat House was filled to capacity with visitors over the weekend. All enjoyed the ambience, catering and celebrations of their time with Phi.

Sadly, Phi received the news just prior to his First Mass, that his beloved grandmother had died during the night. Phi had spoken to her only the previous afternoon. Our sympathy goes out to Phi's mother and uncle on the loss of their mother and to all his extended family at this sad time. May she rest in peace. Upon return from Vietnam, Phi will take up a continued appointment to St Paul's Retreat at Glen Osmond.

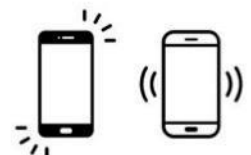
- Denis Travers, Provincial



* From the Passionists'
Province Newsletter

From the Parish Bulletin
Risen Christ Parish
Montmorency/Eltham
Victoria:

When you enter this church, it may be possible that you hear 'the call of God'. However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile. Thank you for turning off your phone. If you want to talk to God, enter, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send a text while driving.



On May 18, St Agnes Parish celebrated 37 years of Passionist Family Groups. During Mass, Family Group members renewed their commitment to one another, a touching reminder of the love, support, and enduring connections that have grown over nearly four decades. Leanne expressed heartfelt gratitude to all who have been part of the Family Groups over the years, thanking them for the countless ways they have shown care, compassion, and friendship. Following the Mass, parishioners were invited to a morning tea where they could ask questions and learn how to become part of this beautiful Movement.

Deacon Shane delivered a moving homily, reflecting on the significance of Family Groups saying, *"In Family Groups, the elderly find companions who check on them and drive them to appointments. Young families find 'adopted' grandparents for their children. Single and widowed parishioners find companionship and fraternity. When someone is unwell, meals appear at their doorstep. When someone celebrates a birthday, they receive cards and calls. When someone is grieving, they are surrounded by people who simply sit with them in their pain.*

The late Pope Francis reminds us that 'love is shown by little things, by attention to small daily details which make us feel at home. People who belong to the Passionist Family Groups understand this. They know that love isn't just about grand gestures, but about the consistent, faithful presence in one another's lives. "

Deacon Shane's words capture the heart of what Passionist Family Groups are all about—a living expression of faith, woven into the fabric of everyday life. As St Agnes Parish marks this anniversary, we give thanks for the many lives touched by this Movement and look forward to many more years of connection and community.



Morning Tea after the Anniversary celebration Mass



Vale: Paul Henry Darbyshire of New Zealand: 27 November 1959 – 15 March 2025

by Paul Traynor: New Zealand's PFGM National Coordinator

Many of you may have heard the sad news of Paul's death on Saturday morning, March 15 2025. Linda, his wife, was by his side when he quietly slipped away. Paul passed away in New Plymouth at the age of 65, after a long battle with cancer. Paul was accepting of his diagnosis and calm in the face of death.

Paul interviewed me for the First City Wide Youth Minister position in Palmerston North. Who would have thought our lives would be entwined through the PFGM? This is where I met his wife, Linda, and started an association through Passionist Family Groups. Paul had a great passion for supporting and working with young people. He and Linda were involved in this ministry for 16 years and opened doors and hearts to many young people including hospitality, acceptance and enduring friendship.



Paul and Linda, along with John and Mary Ellen Leen, served as PFGM National Coordinators in New Zealand for five years and they all continued to be a support and encouragement in my role as National Coordinator from July 2021. This is a sad time as we remember a man who had a good heart, a great sense of humour and a habit of stirring along with his generosity and care for others. He is missed and I ask that you keep Linda and family, along with Paul's family and friends, in your prayer. Paul's funeral was celebrated at St Joseph's, New Plymouth.

With love and in friendship - our family journey continues but we shall not forget our brother, Paul.

Paul's coffin bore three images of the PFG logo – his connection to youth, young adults and Passionist Family Groups. Paul was always ready to serve, assist, build up and, of course, 'have you on'. He was a good stirrer. We remember his wife Linda and their family and friends. The simplicity of Paul's funeral typified the practical faith that Paul and Linda shared. May he rest in peace.

A tribute to Sue Faulkner - Bardon Parish, Brisbane Queensland

Sue Faulkner (with husband Frank and their family) were part of the original Family Groups in Bardon. Frank passed away in 2009. On the 14th May, 2025, on Sue and Frank's 70th Wedding Anniversary, Sue left this life. She was 95.



Sue with great grandson Bowie

Sue was a remarkable lady and over the past few years I have been fortunate to have spent more time with her.

Though her body grew weary, her mind certainly did not - learning Italian via duo lingo each afternoon and very interested in all world and local events. She enjoyed, with others in her family, the daily challenge of Wordle. Sue truly delighted in keeping up with what was happening in the lives of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was always interested in those from the Bardon Parish we both knew over many years - especially the Family Group. When she was able to, Sue really enjoyed meeting up for Family Group activities in these later years. She looked forward to those times and was very grateful for the assistance she needed to be there. We had all been a part of her life for a long time and she appreciated and cared for all of us. Similar to most lives, particularly one of so many years, Sue experienced great joy and great sadness. Through it all Sue was wise, caring and gracious, with an inner strength; a woman of integrity, of great faith and unconditional love. Sue was also great fun. She will be missed in many ways by many people.

- Elaine Hynes - Moore Family Group, Brisbane



Vale: Patrick Thomas O'Reilly - Sandringham, Victoria 23/4/1940 - 10/02/2025

"A loyal and much loved friend of many."

Pat passed away peacefully on February 10, 2025. Pat, together with his wife Carol (also deceased), were the committed PFGM Parish Coordinators for many years in the Sandringham Parish of suburban Melbourne in Victoria.

Pat's Requiem Mass was celebrated at their Sacred Heart Parish church on March 6, 2025. Many of the Parish's Family Group members were present to farewell Pat.

We remember, also, all the people special to us who have died recently but remain in our minds, hearts & prayers.