

# PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT



June 2019

## PFGM National Co-ordinator weekend - April 2019

Held at the Home of Compassion in Wellington, the weekend was attended by Diocesan Directors and Regional Coordinators in NZ, plus representation from the movement in Australia.

During the meeting it was decided to cease using the title 'Directors' and instead refer either to the National Coordinating Team (NCT) or the Diocesan Coordinating Team (DCT). This reflects the reality that there are teams operating at this level of the Movement and that as the Movement has matured the emphasis today is on coordinating rather than directing. What became obvious is that the load had to be shared and support and encouragement needed. Hence the need for teams.

### Teamwork at every level has been recognised as a priority.

We acknowledged Murray and Aileen Straight for their years of service in the role as Directors of the Movement in the South Island. The Movement and the lives of many are richer as a result of their commitment and generosity.

Congratulations to our new Diocesan Coordinating Teams Lindsay and Colin Brand, Penny Hudson and Libby Giddey in Auckland and Pamela and Bob Arthurs, Jo and Kelvin McGirr in Christchurch.

Pamela Arthurs from the National Office of Professional Standards presented a workshop on Safeguarding over the weekend.

The Catholic Church believes that every person has a value and dignity which derives directly from their creation in the image and likeness of God. This implies a duty to value all people and therefore to protect them from harm.

In response to the Safeguarding Policy being implemented throughout the Dioceses of New Zealand, it was decided that our recommendation to Passionist Family Group Movement Parishes is to include Parish Coordinators and Group Coordinators in their Parish Vetting process. A letter has been sent to Parishes and Diocesan Safeguarding Reps outlining these recommendations.

Te Aroha, Te whakapono  
Me te rangimarie, Tatou tatou e.

Murray and Aileen are presented with a waka in appreciation of the giftedness of time, treasure and talents as PFGM Directors 2009-2018.



Auckland Diocesan Team: Lindsay, Colin, Libby and Penny



Christchurch Diocesan Team: Pamela, Bob, Jo and Kelvin with Murray & Aileen Straight.

### Check out news from around the regions plus:

- PFGM Day Notes under resources. Topics - Belonging and Teams
- PFGM Leaders Prayer

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

## Passionist Family Group Days – Belonging Believing Behaving

PFG Days have taken place in Palmerston North, Hawkes Bay and Auckland, facilitated by Brian Traynor CP, and in Hamilton, Katikati, Wellington, Kapiti, Nelson/Richmond, and Christchurch facilitated by Paul Traynor.

Brian's first session was about 'Belonging'. He began by sharing an observation about Family Groups made by Archbishop Pat Dunn of New Zealand, *that the PFGM 'appreciated the importance of belonging right from the start'*. We must ensure that all people in our parishes feel that they belong. The session focused on Jesus as our role model. Jesus' many encounters were over meals, "the ultimate sign of belonging". (Family Groups know all about meals!)



### From Strangers to Friends

Brian Traynor CP said "The Passionist Family Groups were created with the aim of helping parishioners to get to know one another and to create a sense of belonging. This needs to extend beyond individual PFG's so that parishioners can meet more people, get connected and start to belong. It is no use blaming the parish priest or other parishioners if the PFG members themselves are not actively reaching out to welcome others."

One participant in the PFG Days sent a message saying she found Brian's presentation both challenging and inspirational. She said it really gave her something concrete to think about. She shared how she followed this up with action by taking time to speak with a mother and son at Mass the following Sunday and felt very humbled as the mother thanked her for taking the time to speak to her. Another lady she spoke with shared she had come back to the church to support and pray for her sick sister. *"It made me realize how selfish I've been when I've wanted to escape after Mass!"*

So doing something ordinary can make an extraordinary difference to someone else!!

## Holy Family Parish - Nelson

After the PFG weekend in Wellington in 2018 and in response to the 2017 Synod, 'Go you are sent to build community', our Passionist Family group coordinators in Holy Family Parish in Nelson wanted to set up something that was ongoing and supported the broader Parish community. By gifting meals in such circumstances as post bereavement, loneliness and isolation, sudden illness, accidents, and any other individual or family difficulties, the message we want to send is, "We care". *Read this inspiring full story at- [passionistfamily.org.nz](http://passionistfamily.org.nz)*



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**BLESSINGS AND LOVE**

*Mary-Ellen, John  
Linda & Paul*