

PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT



AIMS & GOALS

- To share our Christian Life together
- To support each other in times of need and celebration
- To build promote and strengthen the parish community
- To give example to and include our children in our Christian sharing

WHY THEY ARE CALLED PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUPS

In 1972 Fr Peter McGrath a priest of the Passionist Congregation in Australia saw a need to form small groups of families as a way of encouraging community spirit and supporting one another in his rapidly expanding Sydney Parish. The Groups were very successful and eventually were rolled out across Australia .

The Passionist Family Groups began in NZ in 1988 and quickly spread throughout the country. The groups are a powerful way of building caring Christian communities .



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION VISIT

www.passionistfamily.org.nz

CONTACT :

PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUPS



A FAMILY FOR ALL

Whether you are married, single, with or without children, a Passionist Family Group is a place for you to meet other parishioners, share experiences, make friends, and grow the community in the parish .

The Groups include adults and children of all ages who gather to get to know one another and enjoy time together.

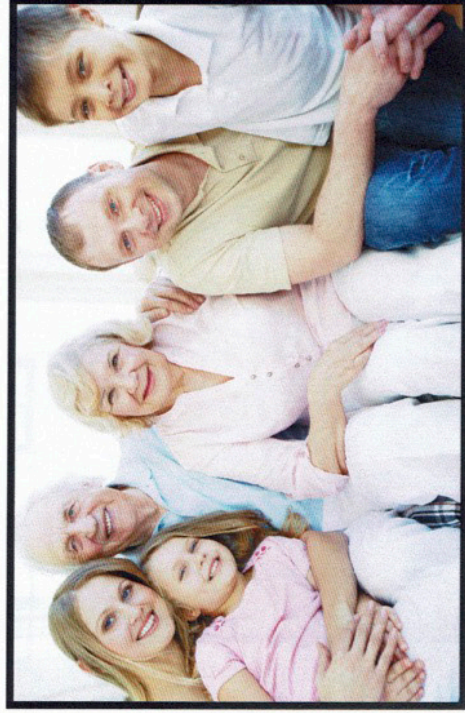




WHO CAN JOIN A FAMILY GROUP ?

- Families
- Singles
- Couples
- Teens, Children
- Single/Solo Parents/Widowed and Divorced
- Grandparents
- People of all faith traditions

EVERYONE WITH A PARISH
CONNECTION



What is their Appeal?

The major attraction of the Groups is their simplicity and openness. They are not prayer groups or discussion groups and are never judgmental.

Single people including the divorced and widowed find the Groups non threatening. Partners, members of other faith traditions and non church goers feel welcome and enjoy having a meaningful connection with the Parish.

Are the Groups Social or Religious?

Jesus would have found this a strange question. When we learn to accept others who are different to us and when we offer welcome love care and support then God is in the midst of us .

Group members help to strengthen the Parish Community by networking within the Parish and by being part of an ongoing support network or point of contact that can assist the Parish Team in meeting the Pastoral needs of the Parish .

Have you ever heard this before ?

"We don't know many people in this Parish"

" I wish we could get to know more people "

"We go to Mass but I don't feel connected to the Parish Community "

What is involved ?

You will be introduced to a Family Group with some members of similar age to yourself and any children you may have.

Each Group is encouraged to meet every 4 - 6 weeks most times with the children and some times as adults only. Groups usually comprise between 25 and 35 people. Some Groups may not have any children while others may have many. The regular gatherings help people get to know one another which builds connections between people and families leading to enduring friendships and a sense of belonging.

.Members have fun extend acceptance and support and simply and joyfully experience Christian life with one another .

The emphasis is on low cost enjoyment and allowing everyone to feel part of a "family". Some of the popular activities of Family Groups include Shared Meals, Picnics, BBQ's, Walks, Tramps, Games, and Celebrating special occasions and events .

Every Group is encouraged to develop its own flavour reflecting the needs and interests of its members whilst remaining an integral part of the Passionist Family Group Movement within the Parish .

Long term friendships and bonds between families have been a common outcome of Family Groups , especially when they have been able to care and support one another through the many challenges of life that we all face.