

Passionist Family Group Newsletter for 10 May, 2026



Reflection for the Sixth Sunday of Easter



There are traits often described as stereotypically feminine—nurturance, warmth, empathy, tenderness, cooperation, and emotional expressiveness—these are commonly associated with motherhood and the care that supports a child’s life and growth. These qualities are not exclusive to women; many men share them. Yet they are still widely recognised as central to how we understand the role of mother.

Today, we give thanks for mothers and for the love, patience, and care they offer to foster children’s growth and wellbeing. Motherhood does not define a woman, but it can be a profound expression of who she is. For many of us, our mothers have been the place where we first learned what “home” feels like: to be accepted and loved as we are.

I am one of eleven children, all still living—a gift in itself. I am grateful that we shared a strong bond with our mother, shaped by her care, gentleness, service, warmth and sense of humour. These qualities show up differently in each of us, but her daily example of selfless love and compassion continues to guide each of us.

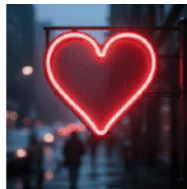
In the Gospel, we are reminded that Jesus sends the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, so that we will know he remains with us. This is the experience of Emmanuel—God with us, here and now. The Spirit teaches and strengthens us to trust, to serve, and to live as Jesus did: reaching out to others and helping them find their way home. This calling is not easy, yet in loving others we discover God beside us—holding us, walking with us, suffering with us, and sharing our joy.

This love is costly: suffering can be part of loving God and neighbour. Yet, it is also where God's compassion takes shape, drawing in those who are lost, lonely, or afraid, and opening the way to mercy and forgiveness. In these qualities we glimpse the tender, nurturing heart of God—an image we do not always make room for when we speak of God only in masculine terms.

Perhaps it helps to speak of God as Creator, the source of life, hope, kindness, gentleness, empathy, forgiveness, and compassion—beyond narrow categories of male and female. Each person carries different gifts; as we trust the Spirit, we grow into who God created us to be.

<https://youtu.be/ukI9xAltIR0?si=UZj77QXX7ZPFEjsj> I believe by Russell Watson

God go with you, regards, Paul



Scripture reflection: Sixth Sunday of Easter 10 May 2026

I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you



Grant, almighty God, that we may celebrate with heartfelt devotion these days of joy, which we keep in honour of the risen Lord, and that what we relive in remembrance we may always hold to in what we do.

LECTIONARY READINGS

First reading: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Responsorial psalm: Ps 65(66):1-7, 16, 20

Second reading: 1 Peter 3:15-18

Gospel: John 14:15-21

[Link to readings - click on readings](#)

The readings for this sixth week of Eastertide are full of joy! They celebrate the light and grace of the Holy Spirit who reveals God's love to all of us.

In the **First Reading**, the apostles' ministry to the Samaritans signals a new phase in the early Church where the **Gospel** message is not just for the Jews but extended to everyone. Joyful celebration is the theme of the **Psalm** too. We are reminded of the many wondrous works of God, his boundless mercy, and his responsiveness to our prayers.

Peter teaches the community what it means to be a Christian in the **Second Reading**: to honour the Christian message with gentleness and respect, even in the face of criticism and rebuke. The Gospel reminds us of the unbreakable bond between us and Christ, expressed through love for God and for each other, and through obedience to his commandments.

During this special Easter period, may we be strengthened, comforted and inspired by the Holy Spirit to know what it is to be called children of God.

Archbishop of Wellington Paul Martin SM recently stated the following in his Welcome Editorial:

"As we move to larger parish groupings, it is important that there are smaller groups within the parish that people can belong to for faith support and companionship. However, these only happen when we are willing to give up our time to belong to them. Expecting someone else to do the work will not sustain us as faith communities."

People have been at work in and through our Passionist Family Group (PFG) ministry throughout New Zealand coming up to 39 years. There are people who are still nurturing and nourishing.

through their coordination or being a member of a PFG. In no small way they are supporting and encouraging the wider community on the values of connection and being community.



Our PFG's are a tonic against the tide of amalgamation where people are fragmented, hurt and often times feel lost and forgotten. The call to community is more than mass attendance as the early church attested to daily. As the Māori proverb states – what is the most important thing in the world? Tangata, Tangata, Tangata – The people the people the people. That is where we start by 'belonging' – being family, welcoming all as Jesus did.

Safeguarding: "Working Together for a Safe Church"

Any complaints should be directed through the National Office of Professional Standards (NOPS) or reported directly to the New Zealand Police or Oranga Tamariki.

Phone: 03 365 1993 or 0800 114 622. **Email:** prof.standards@nzcbc.org.nz

www.safeguarding.catholic.org.nz

Formation (Adult Faith Education & Spirituality)

The Theme for this year's Formations is Nurturing and Nourishment. Hugh McKay prefers the term "kindness" because it is the only form of human love that does not depend on affection. It is a response to a need, and it draws on our compassion – the quality that stands out most in Jesus' life. Jesus chose to mix with and meet outcasts, inviting them to share his table. His fellowship included everyone – a family for all!

PJ Harding defines nurturing as what fills your cup, whether that is laughter, fresh air, good food or time with loved ones. In Passionist Family Groups our reaching out and being family to each other brings joy, understanding, service, care and support. It's not just about 'me' but the welfare and nourishment we can give to each other through our love, concern and compassion. This nurturing leads to nourishment of the heart.

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Formation Bookings: Dunedin Parishes 13 & 14 June; Palmerston North 28 June `St Hellier's 26th July and 35th Anniversary; East Coast Bays 28th July 2026. Christchurch parishes August 9th

Prayer



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1. We pray for mothers those who have played an intimate part in our lives. Also thankful for their love and generosity. We remember all those mothers who are no longer with us but are alive in our hearts.
 2. We pray for Pope Leo and thank him for his truth-telling regarding the war in the Middle East and elsewhere. His stance has been one of integrity, and his leadership provides a stark contrast to the quest for power and domination. Let us walk the path of peace with him.
 3. We pray to be like Jesus, spending ourselves in the service of others- welcoming, guiding and leading people through care, compassion and forgiveness.
 4. Let us take up the call of Pope Leo to foster a sense of belonging in our communities. Also to be united in Christ – united in Mission
 5. We remember that God calls on us, as people of faith, to offer our voices to help those who have none.
4. Keep in mind all those who continue to struggle with mental health challenges, and their families who support them in their daily lives.

1. Please remember Leonie Christian, Margaret and Graeme Armstrong, Jocelyn Kev Bryant and family, Elizabeth, Tim Walsh and family, Debbie and Mike Cotter and family and friends; Christine and Derrick Scott; Paul, Deb and Nick Kelly, Norma Bellamy and family and Lindsay Penman in your prayers

6. Also, please remember, Pat Carson, Graeme Matthews, Di Buckley, Adrian van de Pas and her son Robert, Tim Bartells & family, Linda Darbyshire and family in your prayer, Christine Geoghegan's daughter Kate and extended families, Pauline Prendergast, Robyn Burns (Hill)

7. Keep in mind all those who are struggling with decisions made by leaders that are causing harm, fear, injustice and separation of families.

8. Your own intentions



Humour:

- Where do rainbows go when they've been bad? **To prism, so they have time to reflect on what they've done.**
- Dogs can't operate MRI machines. **But catscan.**
- I'm so upset—my barber said he can't cut my hair any longer. **He can only cut it shorter.**
- What do mermaids use to wash their fins? **Tide.**
- What did the skillet eat on its birthday? **Pan-cakes.**
- Why couldn't the produce manager make it to work? **He could drive, but he didn't avocado.**
- I went to a silent auction. **I won a dog whistle and two mimes.**
- How is my wallet like an onion? **Every time I open it, I cry.**
- What do you call a dog who meditates? **Aware wolf.**
- What kind of fish do penguins catch at night? **Star fish.**
- Which vegetable has the best kung fu? **Broc-lee.**
- Can a frog jump higher than a house? **Of course, a house can't jump.**

Have a great week everyone.....

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these... you did for me." — Matthew 25:40