

Passionist Family Group Newsletter for 24 May, 2026



Reflection for the Feast of Pentecost

One aim of the Passionist Family Group Movement is *“to live and love like the early Christians.”* In these weeks after Easter, we have reflected on the life of the early Church and the Spirit-filled community it became. As Brendan Byrne notes, *“Each brings out a key feature of the early Church’s sense of being a community created, enlivened and equipped by the Spirit of God.”*

Pentecost marks the coming together of the community of believers. It is a call not simply to observe faith, but to live it with openness, humility, and love.

A community of believers is formed through faith expressed in action: listening to the words of Jesus, welcoming others, and caring for those in need. These bonds shape Christian life and draw people into a community grounded in love and service. As Byrne writes, *“Paul makes clear his preference for gifts that build up the community rather than simply the individual (1 Cor 14:1-19).”*

The Spirit is revealed through the biblical images of wind and fire—signs of God’s presence, power, and renewing action. Byrne observes that *“in the biblical tradition the sound of a mighty wind and manifestations of fire signal the presence and power of God.”* In Acts 2, this presence is reflected in a community united in heart and mind.

Pentecost invites us to reflect on the witness of the early Church and ask how we, too, can recognise the Spirit at work in ourselves and others. How can our faith in Jesus shape us into a true community of believers?

Our Passionist Family Groups are an important expression of this calling. Like Jesus in the Gospels, we are invited to reach out, welcome others, and build bonds marked by compassion, mercy, and forgiveness. In doing so, we strengthen community and bear witness to God’s enduring love.

Byrne concludes, *“The overall sense would be that the empowering Spirit, which rested solely upon Jesus during his own life, has now, in accordance with his promise, been distributed to those who are to carry on his mission.”*



God go with you, regards, Paul.

Scripture reflection: Pentecost Sunday Year A, 24 May 2026.

The love of God has been poured into our hearts



O God, who by the mystery of today's great feast sanctify your whole Church in every people and nation, pour out, we pray, the gifts of the Holy Spirit across the face of the earth and, with the divine grace that was at work when the Gospel was first proclaimed, fill now once more the hearts of believers.

LECTIONARY READINGS

First reading: Acts 2:1-11

Responsorial psalm: Psalm 103(104):1, 24, 29-31, 34

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3-7, 12-13

Gospel: John 20:19-23

Link to readings - <https://universalis.com//Australia/20260524/mass.html>

On this great celebration of the descent of the Holy Spirit, today's readings tell of the gifts of consolation and peace, and of the commissioning of the disciples.

The **First Reading** describes how the Holy Spirit arrives as tongues of fire, with the gift of communication. The **Psalm** implores the Lord to send his Spirit for the renewal of the whole earth. St Paul, writing to the church at Corinth (**Second Reading**), focuses on the unity of the Spirit through a diversity of gifts. Finally, St John (**Gospel**) recalls the appearance of the Risen Christ to the disciples in the Upper Room. Christ's gift of consoling peace empowers them for mission.

Let us pray, this week, that we, like them, might receive what the Lord wants to give us and so respond in like manner.

Receive the Power – Guy Sebastian – **Theme Song of World Youth Day 2008**

<https://youtu.be/LLiliw8VNWE?si=K-jaeU79q4WZiQ1C>



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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. Ashburton 8 August Christchurch parishes August 9th

Belong, Behave, Believe



Prayer: Taizé Veni Sancte Spiritus

<https://youtu.be/Z1fR4SV55qg?si=XQqhcijsSOlpVV85e>



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1. 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.
 2. We pray for many members of PFG's in Whakatane who are seriously ill.
 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. We pray for all struggling to live due to the constraints globally impacting our world
 5. 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
 6. 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 in prayer Fr Robert Steele PP in Pukekohe – his brother died recently and now he is expecting his brother Bruce to die, Leonie Christian, Margaret and Graeme Armstrong, Jocelyn Kev Bryant and family, Tim Walsh, Debbie Cotter; 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:

- Why did the old man fall down the well? He couldn't see that well.
- I tried to make up a joke about ghost but I couldn't. It had plenty of spirit but no body.

- Dad: What is the difference between a piano, a tuna, and a pot of glue?
Me: I don't know.
Dad: You can tuna piano but you can't piano a tuna.
Me: What about the pot of glue? Dad: **I knew you'd get stuck on that.**
- Two windmills were sitting on a hill. One asks the other, "Do you have a favourite song?" The other replies, "Well... all my life I have been a heavy metal fan."
- Today at the bank, an old lady asked me to check her balance... **So I pushed her over.**
- I got an A on my origami assignment when I turned my paper into my teacher.
- How many storm troopers does it take to change a lightbulb? **None, because they are all on the dark side.**
- If your house is cold, just stand in the corner. **It's always 90 degrees there.**
- Hi, I'm Cliff. **Drop over sometime.**



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