

Passionist Family Group Newsletter for 31 May, 2026



Reflection for the Feast of the Trinity

Today's feast is that of the Holy Trinity, and our readings draw together the many ways God is revealed in a harmony of life, breath, and love. We believe in a God of compassion and mercy, yet much of human experience is marked by judgment, failure, and the hope of finding favour with God. These three readings instead present a God who is encountered in ways that should foster unity rather than division.

'Lord, Lord, a God of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in kindness and faithfulness.' Moses writes this in Exodus. Paul echoes the same spirit: *"Brothers and sisters, we wish you happiness; strive for perfection; encourage one another; live in harmony and peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you."* In the Gospel, Jesus says to Nicodemus: *"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world..."*

These readings call us beyond ourselves to believe and to live as a community of faith. That belief is grounded in the love and example of God revealed in Jesus and sustained by the Spirit. We are not left alone, even though many people feel that they are.

Over the past week, while visiting Passionist Family Groups parish and group coordinators from Mt Maunganui, Whakatane, Paeroa, Waihi, Cambridge, and Hamilton, I was again struck by the living witness of those who build unity, go beyond what is asked of them, and care for the sick, the lonely, and the fearful.

They also shared their frustration that some groups find it difficult to step forward when coordinators are tired, and struggle to see that building community requires everyone's involvement. Age can become an excuse for withdrawing, yet there are many simple ways to serve. A group list, for example, makes it possible to call one member each week—especially those in retirement villages or care homes—and perhaps arrange a coffee or meet at the village café.

Connection is essential to sustaining both the group and the life of the Church. It asks us to move beyond ourselves, which can be difficult when someone is facing mental health challenges or other concerns. Yet psychology suggests that movement, companionship, and friendship all support both mind and body and can lift the spirit.

In the Gospel stories of healing, those whom Jesus touches are not simply restored; they are transformed. That is the power of love and service: it creates a space in which transformation becomes possible.

God is incarnate, and when we look at the night sky on a clear evening, we glimpse something of the immensity and wonder of creation. Our hearts are made for love, and when we encounter others there is joy in both knowing and being known. Community invites us to belong, to share life and hardship, and to journey together as the Spirit unites our minds and hearts.

The unity of God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—offers a profound lesson in sharing, giving, and living in relationship. We are called into that life so that we may go out as disciples: loving, sharing, laughing, forgiving, and serving one another, and in doing so, inviting others into the tender and compassionate embrace of God.



God go with you, regards, Paul.

Scripture reflection: Feast of the Holy Trinity Year A, 31 May 2026.

The God of Love and Peace



God our Father, who by sending into the world the Word of truth and the Spirit of sanctification made known to the human race your wondrous mystery. Grant us, we pray, that in professing the true faith, we may acknowledge the Trinity of eternal glory and adore your Unity, powerful in majesty.

LECTIONARY READINGS

First reading: Exodus 34:4-6, 8-9

Psalm: Daniel 3:52-56

Second reading: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13

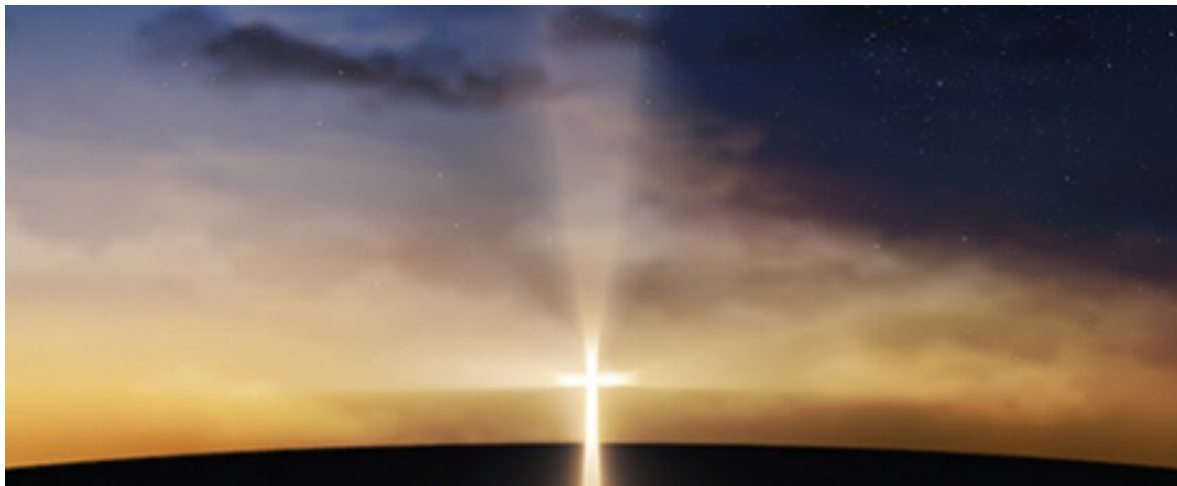
Gospel: John 3:16-18

Link to readings - <https://universalis.com//Australia/20260531/mass.html>

This Sunday, after all the events and celebrations of Passiontide and Easter, we come to ponder the great mystery of the Most Holy Trinity, which binds them all together. In the **First Reading**, Moses goes up Mount Sinai to plead for his sinful people. He enters the cloud of the Lord's presence and discovers a God of tenderness, compassion and forgiveness.

The Canticle that follows comes from the Book of Daniel, and is a song of praise to bless and glorify God in the heavens and in creation. St Paul closes his letter to the Corinthians (**Second Reading**) with a blessing of the three Persons, one God.

The **Gospel** is part of Jesus's conversation with Nicodemus. It clearly states that the Father gave his Son Jesus, with infinite love, to bring eternal life. May we strive to live this week in the fellowship of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, spreading God's love and peace.



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: Napier 7th June; 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

Prayer:

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.
7. 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 daughter in law facing a difficult delivery of her child on Friday May 29 Norma is going up their tomorrow (Friday) 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:

- Did you hear about the guy who went to the doctor for a headache? The doctor examined his ear and found money. The doctor kept pulling and pulling it out until he had \$1,999. **Then the doctor said, "No wonder you're not feeling two grand!"**
- Dad, when he puts the car in reverse: **"Ah, this takes me back."**
- What do you call the security guards for Samsung? **Guardians of the galaxy.**
- I was making a joke about retirement. **It did not work.**
- The other day I bought a thesaurus, but when I got home and opened it, all the pages were blank. **I have no word to describe how angry I am.**
- The owner of the tuxedo store kept hovering over me when i was browsing, so I asked him to leave me alone. **He said, "Fine, suit yourself."**
- Why did the egg have a day off? **Because it was Fryday.**
- Have you ever heard about the kidnapping at school? **It's okay, he woke up.**
- I found a book called *How to Solve 50% of Your Problems*. **So I bought 2.**
- Why did the coffee taste like dirt? **Because it was ground just a few minutes ago.**
- Why did the Rolling Stones stop making music? **Because they got to bottom of the hill.**
- What is the best present? Broken drums! **You can't beat them.**
- I made song about tortilla once, **now it's more like a wrap.**

Belong, Behave, Believe



Have a great week everyone.....

