



PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP

NEWSLETTER

27 September 2026

+ Reflection

This week's readings place more challenges before us. Ezekiel reminds us of an important truth — serve yourself at your peril. The true response to our God is one of love and service. This means living with an attitude of humility, patience, trust and compassion. To seek God's way will always lead us to the path of integrity.

“Theology and action were bound together ... the aim here was to persuade the Philippians to live a life in which disunity, discord and personal ambition had no place.”

William Barclay, on Philippians

We too are called to be humble and to be about looking out and looking after others. A call to humility is at the heart of true service.

In our Passionist Family Groups this is what we speak about and urge each other to be there for each other — to turn up to gatherings in a spirit of unity, to be part of the family and create bonds that nourish and nurture one another. In the Gospel, Matthew reminds us that it is always doing the will of God, and therefore building up and supporting one another, being honest in our endeavours, and not allowing the common thread of conversation to be about ‘I'm busy.’

This conversation can divide people or put them off as a nuisance, but in fact being there for each other helps us develop patience and acceptance. It can teach us to be ‘present’ and therefore in a better frame of mind to listen and be attentive to others. As in family, this is vital for others to feel safe to ‘share.’

Let us be reminded that in a busy world we can break down barriers and be there for each other, including visiting the sick and lonely. All this creates a family where we rely on each other and reach out and serve where we can.

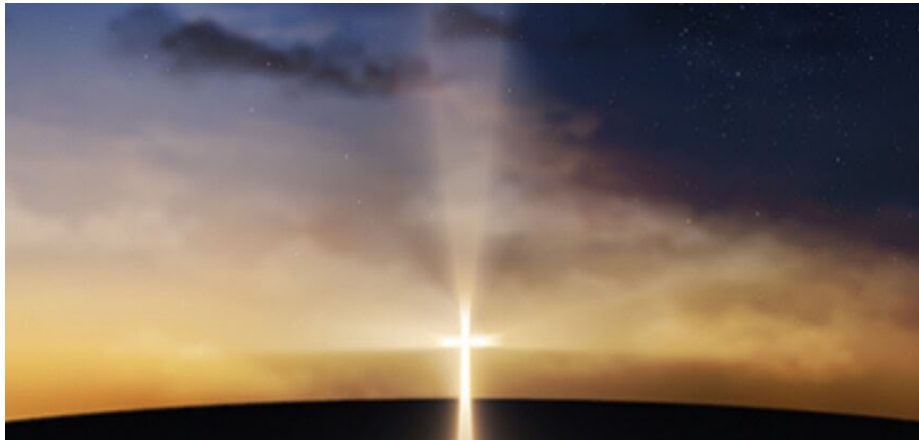
As Our Aims and Goals State

- + *To share our Christian values*
- + *To live and love like the early Christians*
- + *To give example to and involve our children in Christian sharing*
- + *To build and promote community in the Parish*
- + *To support one another in times of need and celebration*

Our changing communities across Aotearoa/New Zealand suggest we look with a different lens, and while seeing what is there, also notice what is absent. Belonging is for everyone, and creating this sense is what we strive to do in Family Groups — not another programme, but a way of being family with and for one another.



God go with you,
Paul



Scripture Reflection

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time — 27 September 2026



Count others more significant than yourselves

O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing your mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven.

The readings this week invite us to reflect on where we put our energies. They remind us that we can only serve our own, deep needs by responding to God's call to love and serve others.

LECTIONARY READINGS

First reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28

Responsorial psalm: Ps 24(25):4-9

Second reading: Philippians 2:1-11

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

► [Link to readings — click here](#)

In the First Reading the prophet Ezekiel tells us that we will only ever experience the fullness of life if we reject wickedness and pursue what is right and just. The Psalm offers words of great encouragement, reminding us of God's constant guidance and salvation for those humble enough to receive it. We are reassured of his mercy and compassion, should we stray from his path. The Second Reading continues in the same vein, inviting us to reject selfish ambition and pride in favour of humility, sympathy and generosity towards others.

In the Gospel, Jesus uses the familiar parable of the two sons to illustrate the difference between mere words and concrete action. He emphasises how status, power and religion mean nothing unless they are used in ways that serve others in God's love.

A Good Read — Resilient Grieving by Dr Lucy Hone

A good place to start is by looking and listening to her TED Talk, which can be found by clicking the link below. Thank you to Stephanie Butchard for alerting us to this link and book.

▶ [3 secrets of resilient people — Lucy Hone, TED Talk](#)

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

Faith and Life Formation 2026

The theme for this year is Nurturing and Nourishment.

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

Cambridge – Hamilton: October 11

Mt. Maunganui: October 16

Katikati: October 17

Waihi Paeroa: October 18

Levin and Otaki: November 1

Havelock North and Hastings: November 8

There are parishes that are still to confirm dates.



A Blessing for Nurturing

May you see your body as a well where water needs to be replenished.

May you learn how to balance your self-needs with the needs of others so that you can live in harmony with the world.

May you take the time to notice and nurture what your inner wisdom is asking of you.

May you find a place in nature where you can be in silence and hear your Creator in the trees, the birds, the wind, and the earth.

May you care for all of creation in gratitude, humbleness, and respect.

— Kaki Grubbs, Spiritual Literacy Certificates Program, 2024 Cohort

Belong, Behave, Believe



Prayer

- ♥ We pray for peace amid renewed tensions and the threat of hostilities between the United States and Iran.
- ♥ We pray for the people of Nepal after the devastating floods and the huge loss of life.
- ♥ We pray for refugees and for all those who have been displaced from their homes.
- ♥ We remember all who are suffering, and we pray that we may act on Pope Leo XIV's call to uphold and preserve human dignity.
- ♥ We pray with gratitude for all the men, women and children who have contributed to the life and spirit of our Passionist Family Group Movement over the past 38 years.
- ♥ We pray that we may be more like Jesus, giving ourselves in service to others by welcoming, connecting, guiding, and leading with care, compassion, and forgiveness.
- ♥ Keep in mind all those who continue to struggle with mental health challenges, and their families who support them in their daily lives.
- ♥ *Please remember in prayer Daphne and Bill Chamberlain, Stephanie Butchard and family, Preston and Jenny's daughter Kate, Pam and Bob Arthurs, Richard Gibbs, Shelley Wards's brother Brett Hanlin. Please keep Jo Moorcroft and family in your prayer. Fr. Litto, Fr Robert Steele PP and family. Margaret and Graeme Armstrong, Kev Bryant and family, Tim Walsh, Debbie Cotter; Christine and Derrick Scott; Paul, Deb and Nick Kelly, Norma Bellamy and family. Also, please remember, Pat Carson, Graeme Matthews, Di Buckley, Adrian van de Pas and her sons Robert and Dean, Tim Bartells & family, Linda Darbyshire and family in your prayer, Christine Geoghegan's daughter Kate and extended families; We pray for many members of PFG's in Whakatane who are seriously ill.*

We pray for one another and for all the intentions we hold in our hearts.



A Little Humour ♥

- ★ "What did the vet say to the cat?" "How are you feline?"
- ★ "What do you call a lazy baby kangaroo?" "A pouch potato!"
- ★ "What happens when M&M's can't agree on anything?" "They reach an M-passe."
- ★ "What do you call a fake noodle?" "An impasta."
- ★ "What do you call a belt made of watches?" "A waist of time."
- ★ "What happens when a strawberry gets run over crossing the street?" "Traffic jam."
- ★ "What do you call two monkeys that share an Amazon account?" "Prime mates."
- ★ "What do you call a pony with a sore throat?" "A little hoarse."
- ★ "Where do math teachers go on vacation?" "Times Square."
- ★ Whenever I try to eat healthy, a chocolate bar looks at me and Snickers.
- ★ "What does garlic do when it gets hot?" "It takes its cloves off."
- ★ "What's a robot's favourite snack?" "Computer chips."
- ★ "How much does it cost Santa to park his sleigh?" "Nothing, it's on the house."
- ★ Mountains aren't just funny. They're hill-arious.



With love and prayers from the Passionist Family Group Movement