



PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP

NEWSLETTER

11 October, 2026

+ Reflection

The readings of recent weeks have offered a continuing reminder of God's love for and commitment to humanity and, indeed, to all creation. At times, we overlook the significance of creation to our own detriment. We are connected to all life and, as many cosmologists observe, we are made of stardust. This is a profound truth. When we look into the night sky, we are reminded that we are part of the universe and that the stars are within us—a mystery worthy of reflection and wonder.

Creation also speaks to us of the grace and wonder of God, whose gifts are available to everyone—not only to the privileged, wealthy, or powerful, but to all. In Jesus, we encounter a God of generosity and surprise, revealed through his mind, heart, and life.

This Sunday, the parable of the banquet—and of invitations ignored or declined—draws our attention to the truth that all are invited, yet each of us must choose how to respond. Like every gift, the invitation is freely offered; each person may accept or reject it. For Paul, the gifts he received and all he accomplished were made possible through Christ.

As William Barclay writes of Paul: *“Paul lays down that no gift ever made a person the poorer. The wealth of God is open to those who love him and love their fellow man and woman. Those who give makes themselves richer, for these gifts open on to the gift of God.”*

Let us therefore remember that Jesus taught the importance of love and service. When we put these values into practice within our parish community and Passionist Family Group, our gatherings are grounded in mutual care and foster a genuine sense of belonging. We can easily forget that transforming our community may first require meaningful change within ourselves. As our parish welcomes people from a wider range of cultural backgrounds, we have an opportunity—and a responsibility—to help newcomers feel welcomed, supported, and included.

Everyone has a story, and sharing those stories within our Family Group can help to break down barriers. We can introduce ourselves and extend the hospitality to which the Gospel calls us. I have often heard people say that they attend church, yet no one speaks to them. It is easy to remain within our comfort zones, but what does that say about us? What is the worst that could happen if I introduced myself to someone new in our parish community? They might not respond, find my accent unfamiliar, ask me to repeat myself, or feel uncertain because of a language barrier. Yet they might simply say, “Hello, and thank you for speaking with me. My English is not very good, and this is my family.”

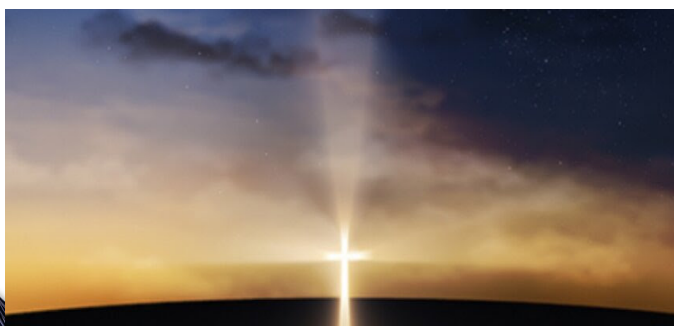
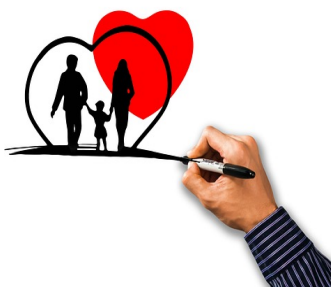
Does that sound so difficult? It need not be. At times, we must move beyond our self-consciousness and simply make the effort. If we seek to live the Gospel, to be people for others, and to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, then forgiveness, compassion, and service will draw us into deeper relationship with one another.

This is what we strive to embody through our Passionist Family Group: to be family to one another, to welcome the stranger, to seek out those who are lost or lonely, and to offer a comforting and friendly presence. In doing so, we live as God desires and respond to his invitation to help bring the Kingdom to fruition. God desires to gather and welcome us; in turn, let us reach out and strive to become “a Family for all”.

God go with you,
Paul

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*



Scripture Reflection

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time —11 October, 2026

May your grace, O Lord, we pray, at all times go before us and follow after and make us always determined to carry out good works.

Those who seek the Lord lack no blessing

LECTIONARY READINGS

First reading: Isaiah 25:6-10

Responsorial psalm: Ps 22(23)

Second reading: Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

[Link to readings – click here](#)

Today we're shown a foretaste of salvation and how God desires the inclusion of everyone. In the **Gospel**, the parable of the Wedding Banquet shows God's eagerness to offer salvation to all, yet how easily all kinds of reasons can get in the way of our response.

The prophet Isaiah (**First Reading**) affirms that the enemies of humanity – death and despair – will be overcome. The Lord will provide an abundant banquet for all, of every nation. It is a scene echoed in the **Psalm**, which shows a shepherd overcoming death and preparing a banquet for his flock.

St Paul intimately knows Christ, the Good Shepherd of the Psalm and, though writing from a Roman prison, he wants for nothing (**Second Reading**). His secret is that his consolation rests not with external circumstances but with Christ. Through Christ's strength and presence, Paul can live with much or little and endure any hardship or persecution.

This week, let's pray that we feel ever more strongly the presence of Christ and, by doing all things through his strength, we might willingly share the troubles of others.

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 — Dr. 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.

Email: paulus663@gmail.com · Mobile: 021357933

Formation Bookings

Cambridge – Hamilton: October 11

Whakatane - PFG Corods Meeting October 15

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 pray for all politicians as we approach Elections for 2026. May they seek to work for those who are in great need and those under privileged.
- ♥ 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.
- ♥ Keep Dr Ann Conroy editor of Tui Motu in your prayers she is currently suffering ill health and taking time out from her editorial role.
- ♥ *Please remember in prayer Richard Gibbs who died on early Monday Morning. Please remember Sue and Richards family, Fr Alfonso, Daphne and Bill Chamberlain, Stephanie Butchard and family, Preston and Jenny's daughter Kate, Pam and Bob Arthurs, , 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 ♥

- "Don't trust atoms. They make up everything!"
- "When does a joke become a dad joke? When it becomes apparent."
- "I wouldn't buy anything with velcro. It's a total rip-off."
- "What's an astronaut's favourite part of a computer? The space bar."
- "Why are elevator jokes so classic and good? They work on many levels."
- "Why do bees have sticky hair? Because they use a honeycomb."
- "Which state has the most streets? Rhode Island."
- "What did the coffee report to the police? A mugging."
- "What did the fish say when he hit the wall? Dam."
- "Is this pool safe for diving? It deep ends."
- "If you see a crime happen at the Apple store, what does it make you?" "An iWitness."



With love and prayers from the Passionist Family Group Movement