PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP

NEWSLETTER18

1 November 2026

✚ Reflection

This Sunday, we celebrate All Saints Day. Although we may hesitate to describe ourselves as saints, we join the Church in honouring those recognised for their holiness, goodness and integrity, and for their outstanding service, love and care for others. Many of those we honour, however, would themselves be uncomfortable with such recognition.

In the early Church, Paul addressed the members of his communities as saints. In Colossians, he writes: *"You are God chosen race, his saints, he loves you and you should be clothed in sincere compassion"*. He identifies the qualities that should guide their lives: *"kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity." "Let the message of Christ find a home in you."* Paul makes clear that this calling is not about self-glorification or status, but about following the example of Jesus.

In Ephesians 1:1, Paul writes, "Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus".

Teaching, fellowship, communal meals and prayer marked the shared life of the early Christians. Acts 2:42-47 describes this communal life: the believers "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer".

Within the Communion of Saints, believers also pray for one another. This ministry of intercession is expressed in James 5:16: "Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed."

The Communion of Saints extends beyond earthly life to include those who have died. In Hebrews 12:1, the faithful who have gone before us are described as a "great cloud of witnesses" surrounding believers. This image suggests that the living and those who have died in Christ remain spiritually connected, united in the hope of resurrection and eternal life.

The Communion of Saints is foundational to Christian theology, uniting all believers in Christ, both living and deceased, in spiritual fellowship. Marked by mutual support, intercession and the shared hope of eternal life, this communion calls the Church to embody Christ's love and unity in its witness to the world.

The Feast of All Saints reminds us who we are called to be and how we are called to live. Our Passionist Family Groups offer more than social connection: through shared social and faith experiences, our gatherings help us put Christian faith into practice. As one of our aims states, we are called to live and love like the early Christians.

Through our Passionist Family Groups, we seek to foster community, belonging and service, demonstrating compassion and kindness and recognising Christ in others. By practising compassion and forgiveness, we follow Jesus' example and live in the spirit of the Beatitudes in Matthew's Gospel. The Beatitudes provide a firm foundation for following Jesus in every aspect of life and recognising our participation in God's life and love.

"Do not be afraid. Love one another and bear with one another and let love guide you in all your life." - St Mary MacKillop (1909)

"If we love God, we will undoubtedly love our neighbour also, they are as cause and effect." - Venerable Catherine McAuley

"The deeds you do may be the only sermon some persons will hear today"

— St. Francis of Assisi

Have a good week – 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: ***Feast of All Saints*** – *1 November 2026*

Almighty ever-living God, by whose gift we venerate in one celebration the merits of all the Saints, bestow on us we pray, through the prayers of so many intercessors, an abundance of the reconciliation with you for which we earnestly long.



…that we should be called children of God…

LECTIONARY READINGS
First reading: Apocalypse 7:2-4, 9-14
Responsorial psalm: Ps 23(24):1-6
Second reading: 1 John 3:1-3
Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12
Link to readings - click here

Today's feast is an occasion for great thanksgiving, honouring all the saints, both known and unknown, who offer us memories and models of holiness. We, too, are called to holiness; to be saints. The Communion of Saints prays for us, willing us on to join them.

We can try to do this by following the message and example of Jesus, as portrayed in the Gospel. Here Jesus teaches the disciples God's law in a new way. His values and attitudes, summed up in the Beatitudes, are a map comprised of eight different paths. By following them, we align our lives with the heart of God and 'holiness'.

The **First Reading** gives us a vision of heaven. Those who belong to the Lord are marked with a seal and kept safe, 'an innumerable number from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages'. In the **Second Reading**, John addresses us as 'beloved', reminding us that we are children of God. Although today's world may misunderstand God's Way, we are promised eternal life when we will see God as he is. The Psalmist sings of the created world and all dwelling in it. Those who seek the Lord's face with clean hands and a pure heart will receive his blessing.

On this feast, let's pray for all those persecuted for their faith; for those suffering injustice; and for those affected by any form of violence.

PFG Review and Questionnaires: Responses are due back on October 30th or ASAP. This review is to inform the PFGM Trustees and Passionist PFG Advisor of where we are going and exploration of how we get there.

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

Levin and Otaki: November 1
Holy Trinity Kilbirnie meeting November 3
Havelock North and Hastings: November 8
New Plymouth – meeting November 27
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



Prayer

- We prayer for the continued improvement in both health and well-being for Pope Leo.
- We pray for peace amid renewed tensions and the threat of hostilities between the United States and Iran along with those in Gaza and in other -places in our world.
- 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 prayer 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: Fr Raphael whose relative is seriously ill as he returns home for a short vis. 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 ♥

1. What kind of music do the mummies listen to? Wrap music.
2. The broom was late today because it overswept last night!
3. What happens if a seagull flies over the bay? It will become a bagel (Bay-gull)!
4. What caused the bicycle to collapse? Because it was two tired.
5. What does a sea monster snack on? Fish and ships.
6. What music do planets like to listen to? Neptunes.
7. What lights up a stadium? A match.
8. Why do cemeteries have gates? Because people are dying to get in.
9. How do you think the barber won the race? He took a shortcut.
10. Two monkeys share an Amazon account. What do you call them? Prime mates!
11. Why do they not play poker in the jungle? There are too many cheetahs.
12. Which tea is hard to swallow? Reality.
13. What is the easiest way to burn 1000 calories? Leave the pizza in the oven.
14. The ball kept getting bigger and bigger. I was wondering why, and then it hit me.
15. Did you hear about the claustrophobic astronaut? He just needed a little space.
16. Did you hear about the guy who stole a calendar? He got 12 months; they say his days are numbered.



With love and prayers from the Passionist Family Group Movement