PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP

NEWSLETTER

15 November 2026

✚ Reflection

As we approach the end of 2026 and the close of Ordinary Time, the parable of the talents invites us to reflect on the gifts we have been given. We are often reminded that each of us has something valuable to offer. The challenge is to recognise those gifts and put them to good use.

One of life's remarkable experiences is encountering talented people and witnessing what they can achieve. Behind their accomplishments often lie sustained effort, personal challenges and deep commitment. William Barclay captures this message in the following words:

"*If we have a gift for something, the more we exercise that proficiency and that gift, the harder we work and the bigger the task we will be able to tackle. Whereas if we fail to use it we lose it.*"

This brings to mind a phrase often used by a coaching colleague: "Use it or lose it." Matthew's parable reminds us that our gifts are unique and that we grow by using them. It is easy to do only what is necessary, without challenging ourselves to do more. Observing the practices of our faith matters, but those practices must also inspire us to help and serve others.

Our Family Groups include many people who value community and help others feel that they belong. Yet stepping forward to lead or organise an activity can feel daunting. Building a strong community is a shared responsibility. When we offer our gifts, we encourage others and demonstrate genuine care, generosity and a willingness to go the extra mile.

Putting our mission into practice requires action: listening, staying in touch with fellow members, supporting them through difficult times and sharing in their celebrations.

For us as Christians, this parable offers a clear lesson: we nurture the gifts we have received by using them in the service of God and our fellow human beings. This creates 'belonging' and a sense that we do this with one another know God walks with us as we journey.

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*



Christmas hampers



With Christmas approaching it may be an opportunity for your group or parish PFGs to organise hampers for those who are disadvantaged within your community. Peace and good will involves action. Can we suggest you contact Vinnies or other community organisations to distribute hampers or other goods that are donated through our Community. Beginning in mid-November, if you wish to bring either a complete hamper, use voucher or goods (food, toys etc) Just an idea to consider more information and support to follow.

Hampers – Preparation and Donation

Contact local Vinnies representatives and other charitable organisations to identify families who may need assistance during the Christmas season.

Once a family has been identified, you and your family can gradually collect items over the next month and place them in a box decorated with Christmas wrapping paper or drawings. If you are preparing a hamper for a particular family, request the first names and ages of any children so that you can select age-appropriate gifts.

Consider including toiletries and personal care items, such as toothpaste, shampoo and deodorant. If you are preparing a hamper on your own or are an older participant, you may wish to partner with someone to share the responsibilities and make the process more manageable. Please include only non-perishable food items.

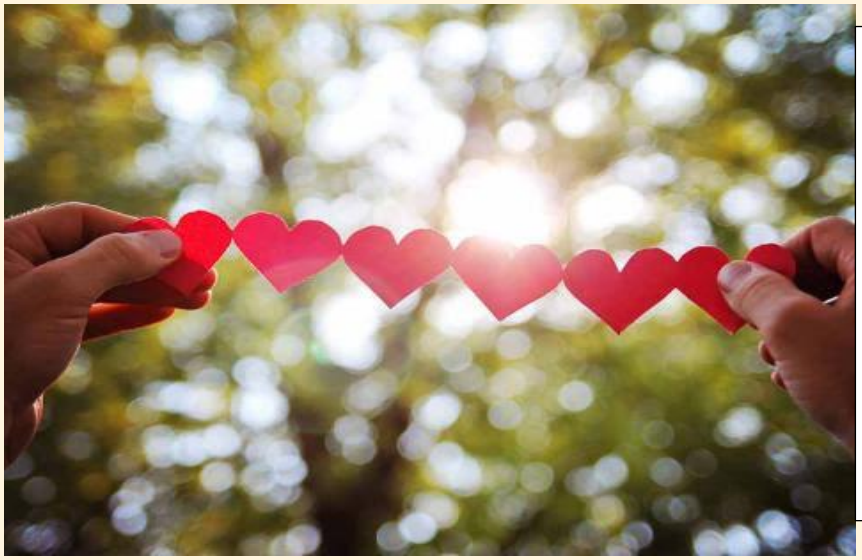
Grocery vouchers from Pak'nSave, Woolworths, Fresh Choice, New World or Four Square are another option, allowing recipients to choose items that meet their Christmas needs. Other gift options include vouchers for the Warehouse, bookshops or cinemas.

For a **Sunday near Christmas e.g. December 20th**, seek permission in advance to present the hampers during the Preparation of the Gifts and arrange for volunteers to transport them to your chosen charity or deliver them where appropriate. Ask Vinnies for guidance on the best way to distribute the hampers, including whether they can be dropped off at the store.

This initiative demonstrates to the congregation how Passionist Family Groups put the gospel into action by supporting those in need. Invite the wider community to contribute and participate.
Best wishes, Paul



Scripture: *33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – 15 November 2026*



Well done, good and faithful servant……

LECTIONARY READINGS

First reading: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
Responsorial psalm: Ps 127(128):1-5
Second reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30
Link to readings – click on link

The readings in this final week of Ordinary Time, Year A, remind us again of the need to be always prepared for the coming of Christ by the way we live our lives.

In the **First Reading**, the writer extols the virtues of the perfect wife. Although using language which reflects the practice and culture of biblical times, the passage speaks powerfully of the value and dignity of manual work, the importance of charity, and respect for all, whatever their role in life. The **Psalm** speaks again of the dignity of work, of being self-sufficient, providing for one's family, and living in awe of the Lord. St Paul reminds us in the **Second Reading** that if we live our lives in the light of Christ, we have no need to fear the coming of the reign of God. In the **Gospel**, Jesus uses the parable of the talents to show the importance of making best use of what we have been given for the benefit of others.

This week, we pray for those who struggle to realise where their own talents lie, and those who lack the opportunity to be recognised, valued and celebrated. We also continue to pray for peace across the world.

To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and to endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.

~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

PFG Review and Questionnaires: *Thanks you to all those who responded to the questionnaires we had a 76% return which is fantastic. Brian my brother and Passionist Family Group Advisor along with myself will meet with the Trustee's on the 21st and 22nd of November.*

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

Meeting with Trustees, Passionist Advisor and myself – November 21 &22
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

Belong, Behave, Believe



Prayer

- Please keep Lynn and Rob Hill in your thoughts and prayer. Lynn has had some health issues recently that landed her in hospital. She is hoping to return home in the next few days but will be requiring more concentrated care at the Village and thankfully this sort of care is available.
- We pray for peace amid renewed tensions in the middle east.
- We pray for
- We pray for refugees and for all those who have been displaced from their homes.
- We prayer for all politicians as we await the final results of the 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.
- *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 do you call a cold dog? A chili dog!
2. What is Harry Potter's favourite method of getting downhill? JK Rolling.
3. I had a construction joke to crack. But cannot do it now as it is still a 'work in progress'.
4. What is a fake spaghetti called? An im-pasta.
5. What is the term used for birds that stick together? Vel-crows.
6. Why is that picture in jail? Because it was framed.
7. What do you call a sleeping dinosaur? Dino snore.
8. How do you prepare holy water? By boiling the hell out of it.
9. What starts and ends with "E" and has a letter in it? Envelope.
10. This thing runs around the yard but doesn't move. What is it? The fence.
11. What did one wall say to the other? Meet you at the corner.
12. Why did the dinosaur cross the road? Because chickens weren't evolved then.



With love and prayers from the Passionist Family Group Movement