PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP

NEWSLETTER18

25 October, 2026

✚ Reflection

Last week, it was a pleasure to reconnect with members of our Passionist Family Groups (PFG) and to see their continued enthusiasm and commitment. The themes of Nurturing and Nourishing resonated strongly, and feedback suggests they were well received, with several members describing them as a welcome source of encouragement.

As our groups grow older, we must recognise the increasing demands grandparents face in supporting their children and grandchildren. While these responsibilities have enriched family relationships, they have also contributed to fatigue and reduced opportunities to remain connected with other aspects of their lives.

Across the country, amalgamations have profoundly affected local church communities. At the same time, increasing numbers of people from diverse cultural backgrounds are joining our congregations. Their youthfulness and more devotional expressions of faith bring new challenges and demand. Although Mass attendance has increased in many regions, our approaches to inclusion and integration have been slow to develop. Some parishioners are grieving the departure of Pākehā members who have turned to other commitments, while welcoming new members remains an ongoing challenge. These communities have much to offer, and we all share a responsibility to welcome them and embrace our differences.

The song 'Empty Chairs at Empty Tables' from *Les Misérables* captures the grief associated with the loss of small communities and their churches, and with a diminishing sense of belonging. At times, we appear to place greater emphasis on the grandeur of the liturgy than on welcoming people and helping them become part of the community. We risk returning to a focus on numbers and external observance, rather than preparing people's hearts and welcoming them as they are.

This week's Gospel offers a clear challenge to live as faithful followers of Jesus: *'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.' (Mt 22:36–40)*

For Jesus, love of God is paramount, as is love of neighbour. Attending Mass and receiving the sacraments do not exempt us from the responsibility to serve others. Jesus calls us to seek out those we have wronged and to make peace before approaching the altar.

We are called to care for those who need support and to work for justice in a complex world. Paul's words of affirmation to the Thessalonian community reflect this same priority: compassion first, sacrifice second.
We are called to serve in the footsteps of Jesus, bringing hope, welcome, belonging and peace through compassion and forgiveness. This is the work of our Passionist Family Groups, which bring us together to invite, support and encourage one another. 'We are a Family for All'.

https://youtu.be/Eh1pQv1y27A?si=Z2Jpf2VJxR6LURly Family Love – Diana Li

Have a good week – God go with you, Paul

As Our Aims and Goals State

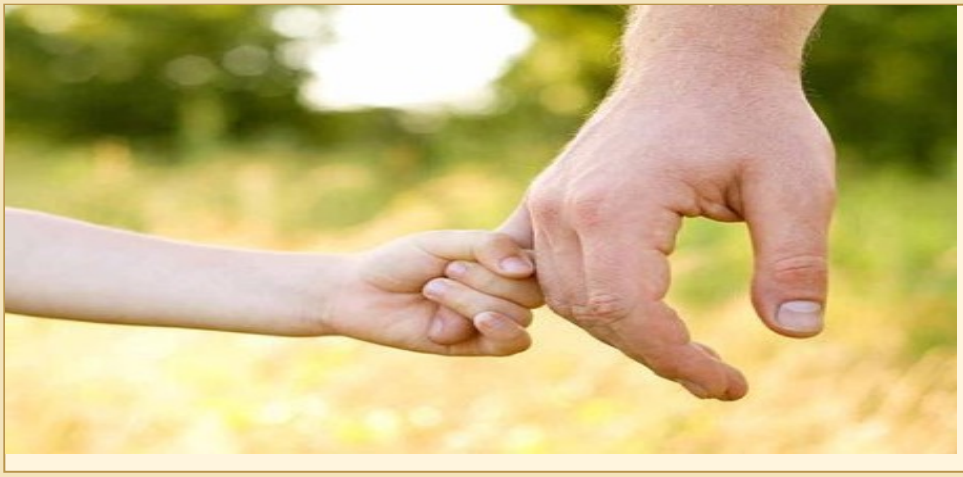
- *To share our Christian values*
- *To live and love like the early Christians*
- *To give example to and involve our children in Christian sharing*
- *To build and promote community in the Parish*
- *To support one another in times of need and celebration*



Scripture: *30th Sunday in Ordinary Time - 25 October 2026*

Scripture reflection: ***You shall love the Lord your God***

Almighty ever-living God, increase our faith, hope and charity, and make us love what you command, so that we may merit what you promise.



LECTIONARY READINGS
First reading: Exodus 22:20-26
Responsorial psalm: Ps 17(18):2-4, 47, 51
Second reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10
Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40
Link to readings – click here

Our readings this Sunday remind us of God's love and compassion. We are asked to live this out each day in our relations with him and with others.

The **First Reading** is from the book of Exodus. God tells Moses to teach the Israelites the kind of care they are to show each other as children of God. The **Psalm** is a song of praise and thanksgiving to God, who is the only source of our strength. We can express our love for him in our dealings with others. St Paul, in the **Second Reading**, praises the Christians in Thessalonica for the way they have responded, in joy, to the Spirit, becoming imitators of Christ.

In the **Gospel** Jesus answers the question, 'Which is the greatest commandment?' The answer is, of course, to love God – with our whole being. Love of our neighbour is inextricable from this.

This week let us, with joy, strive to imitate Christ's love for us in the smallest details of our motives and actions with regard to others.

Last Monday we celebrated Paul of the Cross Feast day– Passionist founder: October 19th By Brian Traynor CP

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
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



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 do dentists call their X-rays? Tooth pics!
2. Why did the melon jump into the lake? It wanted to be a watermelon.
3. Why was 6 afraid of 7? Because 7 ate 9!
4. Grandma: Back in our days, you could buy bread, milk, soaps, spices, eggs, meat, all for a dollar. Little Kid: You can't do that now. They have CCTVs everywhere!
5. When your teacher asks "Where's your homework?" It took a sick day. It had too many problems.
6. You can't trust atoms. They make up everything!
7. Why won't it hurt if you hit your friend with a 2-liter of soda? Because it's a soft drink!
8. Why did the mushrooms get invited to all the best parties? He was a fun-gi!
9. What has four wheels and flies? Garbage truck.
10. I got fired from my job at the bank today. An old lady came in and asked me to check her balance, so I pushed her over.
11. What do you call an elephant that doesn't matter? An irrelephant.
12. Dad, can you put my shoes on? No, I don't think they'll fit me.
13. Why do you smear peanut butter on the road? To go with the traffic jam.
14. Where did Napoleon keep his armies? In his sleevies.
15. Did you hear about the actor who fell through the floorboards? He was just going through a stage.



With love and prayers from the Passionist Family Group Movement