PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP

NEWSLETTER

22 November 2026

✚ Reflection

As we approach Advent, we journey through the four themes of its Sundays: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. In the Gospel of Mark, we are urged to remain vigilant: *"Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come."* ***Mark 13:33***

Throughout the year, my work takes me to communities supported by Passionist Family Groups, where I meet people from many cultures. Many of them seek affirmation and a sense of belonging: they want to feel welcomed and to know that others are making a genuine effort to include them. Parish and group coordinators can find it disheartening when members do not attend or support activities. We are all human, and we can become discouraged and weary when our efforts seem unreturned. Although we may not be able to undertake the activities we once did, each of us can send an email or text, or make a phone call, simply to say, "I am thinking of you." Such small gestures show care, renew hope, and remind people that they are valued.

Through my travels, phone calls, visits and emails, I see many people continuing to live out the basic tenets of the Gospel. I am heartened by your generosity and compassion toward those in need of a witness of care, together with fellowship and faith-filled support:

"Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed" ***1st Letter of Paul the Corinthians 1:2-7***

Let us raise our own hopes, and the hopes of others, this Advent, and strive to embody the aims and goals of the Passionist Family Group Movement.

"We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope." — Martin Luther King, Jr.

To listen click on the link below -(***We reflect this week on 'Hope'***)
https://youtu.be/n5gRgJhCue4 The Garden - Kari Jobe

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*

Trustees of the Passionist Family Group Movement (NZ)

The PFGM (NZ) Trust is in the safe hands of the following and Fr. Brian Traynor CP is the advisor to the Movement on behalf of the Passionist Congregation. We had a meeting last weekend which was very positive and there are suggestions and changes of which we will advise in the near future.





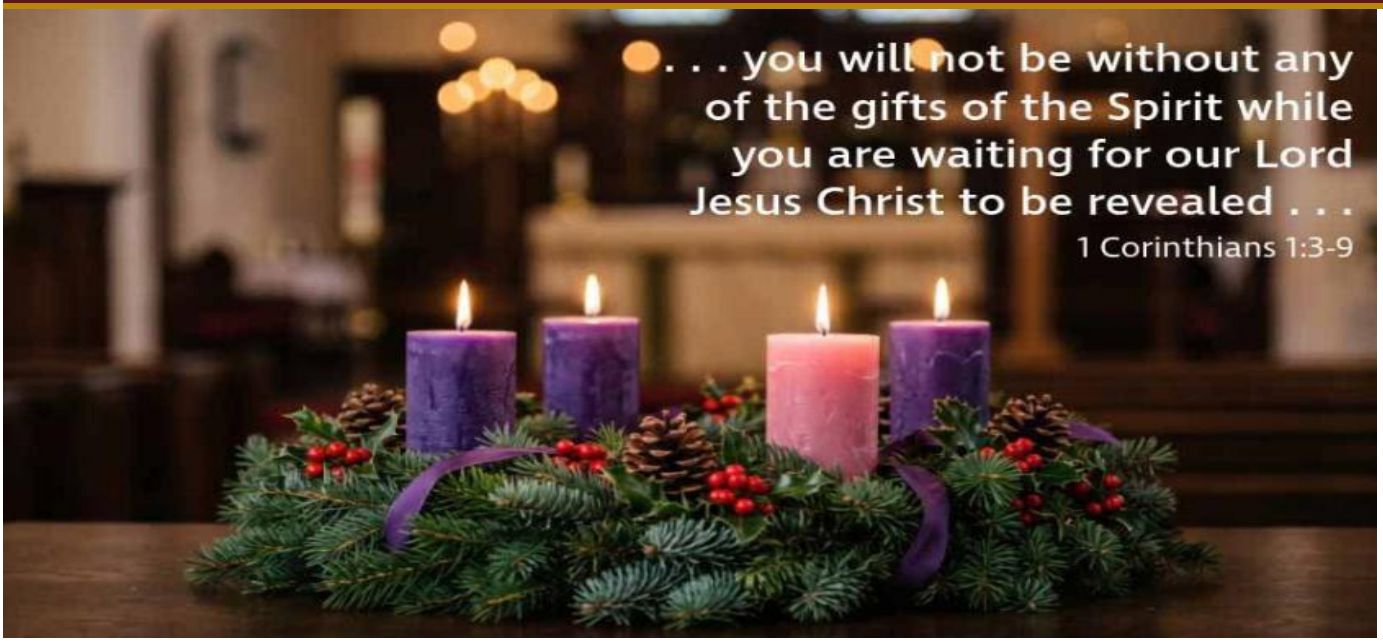
Trustees from left to right:

John Crawford, Jocelyn Uasike, Catherine & John Butchard

(You know Paul Traynor (far left) Brian Traynor CP (Passionist Advisor (far right)



Scripture: First Sunday of Advent, Year B,
29 November 2026.



Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly kingdom.

LECTIONARY READINGS
First reading: Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8
Responsorial psalm: Ps 79(80):2-3, 15-16, 18-19
Second reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Gospel: Mark 13:33-37
Link to readings – click here

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God

This Sunday, we light the first candle of the Advent wreath, symbolising hope. And don't we need the hope this season brings, as it points us toward the great promise of Christ's Nativity.

Today's Psalm speaks eloquently of this hope, which it sees coming in the form of salvation, shining light, visitation, protection, confirmation and life. In the Second Reading, St Paul assures us that we have been given all we need to wait faithfully for the Lord's second coming. By God's grace, we will be sustained to the very end. The timing of this end we do not know, so Jesus encourages us to be ready for it, awake and on guard. (Gospel) Finally, today's First Reading gives us a model of readiness through Isaiah's yearning to be like clay in the hands of a loving potter.

This Sunday, and this whole season of Advent, may we ready ourselves for the day of the Lord, through joyful good works, by patient waiting and in faithful remembrance. Amen.

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



PFG Review and Questionnaires: *Thanks you to all those who responded to the questionnaires we had a 79% return which is fantastic. Brian, my brother and Passionist Family Group Advisor along with myself met with the Trustee's on the 21st and 22nd of November. More information to follow.*

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 and PFG Meeting Bookings

Meeting with Trustees, Passionist Advisor and myself – November 21 &22
New Plymouth – meeting November 27
Auckland – Companions and CP Chapter Synodal Meeting – November 28
Away 1st to the 8th December
Napier – Meeting 15 December
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 prayers. Lynn has recently had some health issues that landed her in hospital. She has returned home requiring more concentrated care at the Village.
- We pray for peace amid renewed tensions in the Middle East and Ukraine
- 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, living the prime themes of Advent Hope, Peace, Joy and Love 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 visit; Sue and Richard's 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; Jo Moorcroft and family; 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; Pat Carson; Graeme Matthews; Di Buckley; Adrian van de Pas and her sons Robert and Dean; Tim Bartells and family; Linda Darbyshire and family; and Christine Geoghegan's daughter Kate and extended families. We also pray for the many members of PFGs 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. Did you hear about the actor who fell through the floorboards? He was just going through a stage.
2. What do pampered cows produce? Spoiled milk.
3. Why did the cat run away from the tree? It was afraid of the bark! Its bark scared him?
4. What do you call an alligator in a vest? An investigator
5. What does a house wear? Address!
6. How do you fix a broken tomato? Tomato paste!
7. The ketchup blushed at the table. Why? It saw the salad dressing.
8. What do you call a can opener that doesn't open? A can't opener!
9. What is a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary called? Thesaurus.
10. Why is the obtuse triangle always frustrated? Do whatever; it is never right.
11. What do you call two math-loving guys? Algebros.
12. Who should you never trust a person writing on graph paper? He is plotting something.



With love and prayers from the Passionist Family Group Movement