PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP

NEWSLETTER

8 November 2026

✚ Reflection

In his commentary on the parable of the ten bridesmaids and their lamps, Scripture scholar Michael Fallon MSC suggests that Matthew contrasts attention to immediate needs with preparedness for what the future may hold. Five bridesmaids focus on the present, while five prepare for the future. Discipleship, therefore, is not primarily concerned with the timing of Jesus' final revelation; rather, "one should be concerned by living the life of a servant". Matthew urges leaders of the Christian community to fulfil their ministry of service in the manner taught by Jesus himself.

In the current Church climate, this emphasis on service can receive less attention than correct liturgical practice and the celebration of Mass. Some suggest that Passionist Family Groups no longer have the impact they once did, or that their time has passed. Yet across our country, people in both lay and religious communities increasingly experience disconnection, demanding schedules and financial pressures, leaving little time for family life. Many feel lonely and isolated. How should we respond?

Dr Lucy Hone writes, *"Human are wired for connection. Our greatest strength lies in our kinship: our ability to connect and protect. As prosocial creatures, we are designed to cooperate and relate to one another. We see ourselves in each other and are programmed for love, sorrow, kindness, heroism and empathy – helping us weather the hard times and find our way back to the good."*

"Countless studies have shown the number one predictor of well-being across the lifespan is the presence of strong, supportive relationships."

It is little wonder that loneliness is described as an epidemic. Through our Passionist Family Groups, we seek to demonstrate how belonging and mutual support can help counter isolation. When we gather at the Eucharistic table, we recognise the presence of Jesus and affirm our call to service. We also respond to the call to go forth, carrying in our minds and hearts the needs of our group members, our local community and the wider Church.

Fr. Peter McGrath CP, founder of Passionist Family Groups, expresses this vision clearly: "*A well-functioning Family Group is an extended family. It provides a nurturing and supportive environment for all its members to grow as Christians….It answers the ned of belonging. When people are at home in a family group, their gifts and graces are revealed. Then they use them within the parish community and in the Christian mission."*

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 – Donate…preparation



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.



Scripture: *32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – 8 November 2026*

Almighty and merciful God, graciously keep from us all adversity, so that, unhindered in mind and body alike, we may pursue in freedom of heart the things that are yours.



LECTIONARY READINGS

First reading: Wisdom 6:12-16
Responsorial psalm: Ps 62(63):2-8
Second reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13
Link to readings - click on link

As we come to the end of the liturgical year, the readings are increasingly concerned with the end of time and the Second Coming of the Lord. In the **First Reading**, Wisdom is personified as an attractive woman, who seeks to comfort and support those who love and seek her. She prepares us for the virgins in the Gospel who are looking out for the bridegroom. Continuing the theme of watching, the Psalmist's main ambition is to find God. He will certainly be ready when the Lord comes. Using apocalyptic language, Paul reminds the Thessalonians that whether dead or alive, the Lord will be with them, so they can comfort one another. (**Second Reading**)

In the well-known parable of the wise and foolish virgins, Matthew reminds his audience that the Lord will eventually come, but that we must not only exercise patience, but also be ready at all times to welcome him. (**Gospel**)

This week, we might pray particularly for all those who will be unprepared when the Lord comes, whether because they don't know him, or because they have given up waiting.

PFG Review and Questionnaires: *Responses are due back if held up please get to Paul* ***by Tuesday the 10th November****. 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

Havelock North and Hastings: November 8

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



Prayer

- We prayer for the continued improvement in both health and well-being for Pope Leo.
- We pray for peace amid renewed tensions in the middle east.
- 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.
- *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. I used to be addicted to soap, but I'm clean now.
2. There are two types of people in the world, those who can extrapolate from incomplete data.
3. What's the best part about living in Switzerland? Not sure, but the flag is a big plus.
4. Why did the dog cross the road? To get to the barking lot!
5. What do you call a bear with no teeth? A gummy bear.
6. A nurse told me, "Sorry for the wait!" I replied, "It's alright, I'm patient."
7. Working in a mirror factory is something I could totally see myself doing.
8. I'm terrified of elevators, so I'm going to start taking steps to avoid them.
9. Did you hear about the mathematician who's afraid of negative numbers? He'll stop at nothing to avoid them.
10. Why are pirates called pirates? Because they arrrr!
11. Helvetica and Times New Roman walk into a bar. "Get out of here!", shouts the bartender. "We don't serve your type."
12. Can February March? No, but April May!



With love and prayers from the Passionist Family Group Movement