



Passionist Family Group Movement Victoria/Tasmania

NEWSLETTER October, 2017

State Team for Victoria and Tasmania

Over recent months, there have been some changes to our State Team:

Jan Mullaly (Ballarat) and Judy and Rob Lewis (Ferntree Gully) have retired. We cannot thank enough these retiring State Team members who have given so generously of their time to the Passionist Family Group Movement over many, many years.

We welcome onto the team Gail and Hank Fiddelaers, of Willow Grove near Trafalgar.

State Team Members:

Alison and Tony Woolley	Our Lady Help of Christians, Warrnambool East
Frances and Michael Sullivan	St Francis Xavier, Montmorency
Trish and Roger Gurney	Our Lady of the Pines, Donvale
Gail and Hank Fiddelaers	St John's, Trafalgar

The State Team aims to continue to provide support for people in leadership in all the parishes where Family Groups are established.

Annual Report Form Feedback

Thank you for returning your 2017 Report Forms. These have provided the State Team with current information that is important for future planning to ensure that we give you as much information and support as possible, predominantly through Cluster meetings. However, we also need to consider those of you who live in more distant locations or far from other PFGM parishes.

Welcome and Thanks

A special thank you to all new Parish Coordinators: it is not always easy to take on a new responsibility in your parish but we trust that you will find your new role rewarding and enjoyable. As we talk to Coordinators and Leaders across Victoria and Tasmania, we realise that many of you are involved in a number of ministries in your parishes so we thank you doubly for your commitment to the Passionist Family Group Movement. As Family Group Coordinators/Leaders, you are demonstrating a genuine lay ministry: promoting Jesus' vision that our church is a 'Family for All'.

Around the States- 'putting names to faces'

On a weekend in early August, Michael and Frances Sullivan visited Tasmania. On Saturday, they enjoyed lunch at the home of the Hobart coordinators, Michael and Maureen Ball together with leaders of the two Family Groups in St Joseph's Parish in Hobart. PP Fr Peter Addicoat cp, was also present. This Parish is in the city centre and attracts a wide range of people from across Hobart and also visitors/tourists to its weekend Masses.

On the Saturday evening, on the other side of the Derwent River, Michael and Frances attended Mass at the Lindisfarne church. This Parish has been merged with the Bellerive Parish. The PP, Fr Peter O'Loughlin, greeted them after Mass.

On the Sunday, in order to meet Frances and Michael, Bev and Tony Palmer, the Lindisfarne PFG Coordinators, organised a lunch for all their members at a hotel close to the retirement village where many of them live. Twenty-six FG members from the three Lindisfarne groups attended the lunch and declared that they had had a great time. Bev and Tony were delighted with the success of, and attendance at, this function.

Also in August, Alison and Tony Woolley together with Frances and Michael Sullivan enjoyed meeting with the Ballarat district coordinators over a dinner in Ballarat. Retiring State Team member, Jan Mullaly also attended, providing the opportunity for one of the coordinators to make a moving speech, thanking Jan for her many years' care of the Ballarat and Midlands Clusters. Jan became well-known to them and is thought of very fondly.

For those few parishes across Victoria that have not yet had direct contact with a State Team member in 2017, we hope to be in touch with you soon.

Parish PFGM news

We heard recently that the Passionist Family Group at St Luke's in Lalor enjoyed its annual camp to Axedale's 'Camp Getaway' in September. The group has continued to return to this camp venue that they say is both comfortable and easy for them to access.

Spending a weekend away with the members of your Family Group can be a very positive and happy experience, helping to bond the group's members. A list of suitable camp venues can be found on our website at www.pfgmovement.org.au under 'Resources'.

Congratulations to the parishes that have celebrated special anniversaries throughout this year. Tony Woolley reported that, at the recent Warrnambool Parish 25th anniversary celebration, the celebration cake was heralded with a rousing rendition of Happy Birthday accompanied by a ukulele band that included a number of musical Family Group members!

****We would welcome more news of Family Group activities across Victoria and Tasmania, so please consider writing a report and sending it to the Team by email or snail mail.**

Some suggestions

Here are some things that you may consider doing to promote Family Groups in your parish:

- Make sure that you keep your Parish Priest informed of your activities by giving him a copy of your yearly plan and by inviting him along to Family Group functions. He is probably very busy and may not always be able to attend but ask him anyway.
- Arrange to have your Family Groups' activities published in your Parish's newsletter so that all in the parish know what the Family Groups are doing
- Give a brief annual report to your Parish Pastoral Council
- Keep an invitation to join a Family Group open to new parishioners and to parishioners whose circumstances may have changed, e.g. widowed, separated, retired.

Prayers: *Please pray for former Director, Maree Metcalfe, who is undergoing a hip replacement in early November. May she make a speedy recovery.*

Best wishes and thank you for all your good work in your parish,

State Team, PFGM VicTas