



Passionist Family Group Movement - Victoria/Tasmania

NEWSLETTER November, 2018

Greetings to all our Family Group friends across Victoria and Tasmania.

This Newsletter contains important information for coordinators, group leaders and all interested PFGM members. There are also reports of anniversary celebrations from our PFGM parishes and we congratulate them all on their significant milestones.

Firstly, a very IMPORTANT reminder:

VicTas Formation Weekend, March 29 - 31, 2019

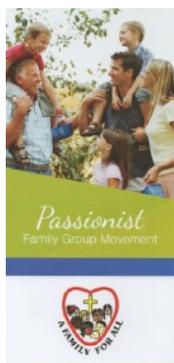
You are warmly invited to the residential weekend for VicTas PFGM coordinators, leaders and interested PFGM members to be held at the Passionists' Holy Cross Centre in Templestowe from March 29-31, 2019 (see <http://holycrosscentre.com/centre/>). This time together will provide an ideal opportunity for relaxed re-connection, conversations, reviewing and planning facilitated by Fr Brian Traynor CP, a talented and personable presenter.

The cost for this weekend is just \$60 per person.

This charge will cover accommodation with breakfast for two nights (Friday and Saturday) together with an evening meal on Friday and lunch and dinner on Saturday. The core activities will take place on Saturday, March 30 but connecting and socialising are encouraged on the Friday evening and Sunday morning.

If you plan to travel by public transport, we will be happy to arrange to collect you from the nearest railway station (Heidelberg) or to make other arrangements as needed.

NOTE: The State Team will be inviting registrations for the Formation Weekend early in 2019.



New PFGM Brochures

The PFGM National Coordinating Team has facilitated the publication of these colourful brochures with their attractive photographs in order to standardise the promotion of the Passionist Family Group Movement across Australia.

The VicTas office has a number of these brochures that can be sent to you on request. Alternatively, you can

access the brochures online from our VicTas website:

www.pfgmovement.org.au under the Resources tab

OR from the PFGM National website:

www.pfgm.org/resouces

There is a space on the back of the brochure where you can add your Parish's contact details.

Remember your PFGM Parish banner?



It has been great to see Parish Banners being unrolled, dusted off and used in churches, gathering spaces and halls to complement your Anniversary celebrations and other combined Family Group functions.

Parish Anniversary Celebrations

The **Parish of St James in Sebastopol near Ballarat, Victoria**, was abuzz with excitement on Sunday, July 25, 2018 as the members of the Passionist Family Group Movement celebrated their 25th Anniversary during Sunday Mass. Coordinator, Anne Porter, spoke about the Movement's history in St James' Parish and highlighted some of the wonderful experiences enjoyed over the years.

After Mass, parishioners and Parish Priest, Fr Kevin Maloney, joined the Family Group members in the church foyer for morning tea. Group Leader, Rosalyn Connellan, roved with the microphone and the PFGM members were invited to share stories and anecdotes of their experiences in Family Groups over the years. These included laughs about hilarious incidents and many appreciative comments about the joys, sorrows and difficulties all made easier by the support of Family Group members.

A display of photos and a slideshow brought back memories of great times shared when we were much younger people! Posters and brochures were available for anyone else in the Parish who may be interested in joining a Group. Later, about sixty members of the Sebastopol Parish enjoyed a celebratory lunch at the local Bowling Club.

- Anne Porter, coordinator



St James, Sebastopol, a PFGM Parish in the Ballarat Diocese, celebrated 25 years of Family Groups on July 22, 2018



Sebastopol's Parish PFGM coordinator, Anne Porter, at the microphone



Parishioners and PFGM members enjoyed lunch at the Bowling Club



Congratulations to our Passionist Priest friends, Fr Brian Traynor (Holy Cross, Templestowe) and Fr Peter Addicoat (Hobart) who celebrate their 45th anniversaries of Ordination to the Priesthood on November 24 and December 1, 2018 respectively.



to our Parish Passionist Family Groups!
 25 years of building Christian community through the development of extended families. With loneliness and isolation so prevalent in our society, there is a genuine need for people to know and support each other. Our Family Groups have created an extended family atmosphere within our community and are open to everyone. The focus is on people caring for, loving and accepting each other. Everyone is welcome to join. Interested?

St Kevin's Parish Templestowe



Templestowe Parish Priest, Fr Gerry McKernan (left) is pictured above with the PFGM Group Leaders and Parish coordinators, Cathy and Rod Hardinge (2nd and 3rd from right)

The members of the Passionist Family Groups at St Kevin's Parish, Templestowe in suburban Melbourne, celebrated their 25th Anniversary of membership on Sunday, *August 12, 2018*. A Parish Mass celebrated by Fr Gerard McKernan PP, was followed by a happy gathering of the Family Group members and parishioners enjoying barbecued sausages (note Rod in his chef's apron) and a delicious decorated celebration cake.

St John the Baptist Parish, Ferntree Gully

at the foot of the Dandenong Ranges east of Melbourne

In August, St John the Baptist parish in Ferntree Gully celebrated **30 years** of the Passionist Family Group Movement in our parish. There are nine groups within the parish, of varying sizes, and many group members participated in the anniversary Mass prior to a lunch time get-together. For the Mass, group members were readers, special ministers, greeters and musicians with Parish Priest, Father Alan Fox, as celebrant. Father Alan is a strong supporter of Family Groups within the parish.

30

Like most Family Group functions, food was in plentiful supply for the lunch time get-together. Over fifty group members attended the lunch creating a real hubbub of conversation, particularly when looking at photos of the old days. Indeed, based on these photos, one of the more notable differences was that almost everyone's clothes are now a bit bigger. There has also been a change in hair colour and also in its density for some of the men.

Of course there were leftovers from the lunch.

- John O'Halloran, Coordinator

St Thomas Parish, Terang

in south western Victoria



The **25th Anniversary** of the Passionist Family Groups in St Thomas' Parish, Terang, was celebrated on August 26, 2018.

The day began with 10:30 Mass and was followed by a luncheon for the two groups and visitors.

PP Fr Gerry Puntly celebrated Mass and joined us for lunch with the former PP Fr Tom Brophy. Our guest speaker was Denise Houlihan (née Baker) from Coleraine. Denise is a school teacher who was passionate about seeing every child able to read and write, so at the age of 70, she applied to "Volunteers for Isolated Students" to tutor in the outback. Denise worked for 6 months of the year as a volunteer tutor on outback stations using School of the Air and Distance education. She spent two terms each year for 10 years with outback families which she found to be an exciting and rewarding experience.

Denise has three brothers with the Columban Missions who have spent their lives in Japan, the Phillipines and Peru. Denise gave us a great insight into her work.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent reminiscing on wonderful friendships made through our Family Groups.

- Faye Phillips, Coordinator

St Columba's, BALLARAT NORTH, celebrates 30 years

On a crisp, sunny Sunday morning in October, the Passionist Family Group members at St Columba's Parish, Ballarat North gathered at Mass to celebrate their 30th Anniversary. Parish Priest, **Fr Marcello Colasante**, congratulated and thanked them for their positive contribution to the life of the parish.

At the conclusion of Mass, an original PFGM member, Leo Schreenan, spoke fondly of the Movement's long history at St Columba's, recalling the many ups and downs of life that have been shared with mutual support within the Parish's many groups.

Behind Leo, a slideshow scrolled of photographs taken through those thirty years. The images document many gatherings and fun activities enjoyed by the Family Groups. A cake, made by Margaret Schreenan and beautifully decorated with paper cut-outs of Family and a number of candles, was centre-stage in front of the sanctuary. Happy Birthday was sung and the candles blown out by Eleanor Kennedy.

Coordinators, **Shirley and Denis Edgar**, hosted hospitality after both Saturday night Mass and the Sunday Mass in the church's bright foyer that they had decorated for the occasion.

- Frances Sullivan, State Team



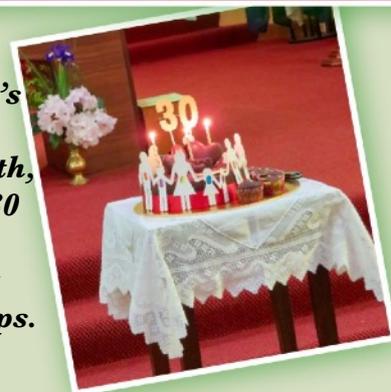
Left: After Mass, Leo Schreenan spoke about the history of Family Groups at St Columba's.



Right: Eleanor Kennedy cuts the Anniversary cake watched by her husband, Brian and Chris Haintz.



St Columba's Parish, Ballarat North, celebrates 30 years of Passionist Family Groups.



Anniversaries in 2019:

*20 years: St Augustine's Creswick - February
St Patrick's, Camperdown - April*

*25 Years: St Mary's, Rutherglen - May
St Joseph's, Warragul - July
St Therese's, Kennington - August*

Best wishes from the VicTas State Team:

*Alison & Tony Woolley
Gail & Frank Fiddelaers
Trish & Roger Gurney
Frances & Michael Sullivan*

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