

PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUPS IN THE PALMERSTON NORTH

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

This weekend we *begin the process of establishing Passionist Family Groups*. There are already groups in existence and these groups will continue.

The reason for establishing these groups is to *assist our parishioners in making a “connection” with each other and building community*.

Being a part of a Passionist Family Group will provide *a way to meet and get to know other parishioners*. We have to be honest and say that we, as Catholics, are not known for the way we greet each other and get to know each other by name.



One of the many positive aspects of a Passionist Family Group is that *those in a group can range in age from elderly to a baby*. Whether parishioners are married or not, divorced, young or old, Catholic, non-Catholic, everyone is welcome. **The motto is: “a family for all”**. *Everyone and anyone is welcome* to be a member of a group.

The activities of a family group are to be *able to socialise together* and include such activities as shared meals, “outings” and any other activity that combines common interests, fun and food!

As the members of a group get to know one another they can begin to *support each other in times of both need (a bereavement) and celebration (a birthday or anniversary)*. Because “connecting” becomes part of a group, members of the group begin to feel they are part of an extended family

Passionist Family Groups are not prayer groups, nor are they discussion groups. The emphasis is on *allowing people to put the Gospel into practice through mutual care and support for each other within the group*.

Passionist Family Groups are not for everyone, but experience shows that as time goes by, more and more parishioners become aware of the *value of being in a group where they can “connect” with other parishioners*.

The National Coordinator for the PFGs in New Zealand, **Paul Traynor**, will be speaking at the Masses at Our Lady of Lourdes on the weekend of our Relaunch (12th -13th August).

Over the next two weekends there will be *someone sharing their experience of being involved in a PFG*. There will also be the opportunity to *fill in an enrolment form* that will be made available at all Masses, and on the parish website.

Jenny Poskitt

PFG Regional Coordinator