

"Happy, welcoming, recognising voices were everywhere. Chattering, smiling, laughing, small talking friends. No order! Then, above all this a strong, warm voice. The voice of Peter McGrath."  
Hugh Azzopardi.  
Grafton. N.S.W.

"Your thoughts and prayers, and your support for Rob have made us feel so much part of the community. It's hard to explain, but I never really knew that so many people knew and cared for us."

Rob & Wendy Symonds.  
Booragul. N.S.W.

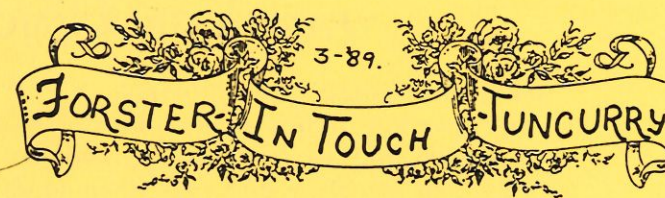
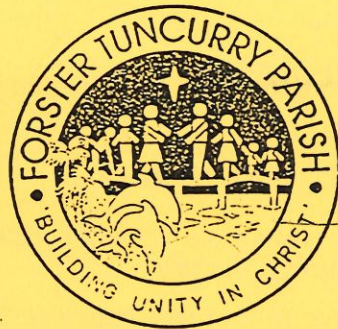
## PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT



"Our experience this weekend, I have felt for the first time that we belong to the community among you all. How friendly you are and how close we feel to you."  
Willi Lim.  
New Zealand

"Family life is constantly changing-- bringing new challenges -- new 'high's' and 'low's'. These are more readily coped with when there is support and encouragement offered by those around us."  
Rob & Lyn Hill.  
New Zealand

"The reputation of the parish and people of St. Anthony's is well known - but one has to experience the tremendous love, caring and sharing that is St. Anthony's."  
Laurel & Fred Leslie.  
N.S.W.  
Pennant Hills.



Dear Lovers of Family-Life,

Our first 'In Touch' for 1991 contains information and an invitation. The information is about what is called the 'Family Group Movement'. It commenced in a Sydney parish 15 years ago, and has since spread to 120 other parishes throughout Australia.

The invitation is being extended to you to consider giving the introduction of this Movement to our parish your active support. Many of us treasure family-life, and we are aware of the many pressures and difficulties which family-life experience in these times. I believe that our introducing the Family Group Movement into our parish will provide us with a special means of supporting and encouraging the well-being of Christian family living within our parish and community.

Please read the information inside, and prayerfully consider your response to this important invitation.

May Our Lord bless you and your family.

(Fr.) Kevin

## THE PASSIONIST FAMILY GROUP MOVEMENT

Have you heard this before?

"Our parish lacks life. We don't know each other."

Or maybe you've said to yourself:

"How can we show our children what it means to be Christian?"

We now you can do something--JOIN A FAMILY GROUP!

Once you do, you'll get to know people just like yourself. You'll get support with you own family life, and in turn you will support others.

Through this interaction, you will find you are bringing a happy, loving spirit to your parish community.

Children will feel that they belong to a large extended family and will learn from the example of others. This was how the Church forst began. The trademark of the early Christians was: "SEE HOW THEY LOVE ONE ANOTHER."

### WHEN YOU JOIN WHO WILL BE IN YOUR GROUP?

10-15 families are grouped into something like an extended family, with a cross section of ages, but some children of the same age.

Anyone and everyone is welcome to join, from grandparents to babies. There is room for non-Catholic spouses, one-parent families and single people (either elderly or young).

The groups gather once a month (e.g. a picnic, barbeque,) to enjoy being with one another and gradually to develop supportive relationships. Some get-togethers are just for the adults, whereas others are for the whole family. The groups work together to foster the parish community and support the pastors.

Sharing experiences like a weekend away, a home Mass, baptisms and anniversaries are highlights in a Family Group's calendar.

This is the way in which Family Groups live the faith in the everyday circumstances of their lives.

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### "BUT I'VE ALREADY GOT ENOUGH FRIENDS".

You don't have to lose them by belonging to a Family Group.

Have you thought what it is like for the poeple who are not like you and who don't have many friends?

Can you really make sense of going to church while these people are ignored and left out?

You would have noticed that most people don't stay after Mass on Sundays. How many people do you really know? What if we could create a network where everybody knew at least 10 families well? Wouldn't that change the atmosphere of the Parish?

### "HOW COMMITTED DO I HAVE TO BE?"

As with your own family, there is a need to sometimes to make an extra effort, and as with all aspects of life, you reap what you sow.

You will get from Family Groups what you put into Family Groups.

### CAN YOU RESIST THIS OFFER???

Talk about this idea with your family. Come along and hear about it at the Information Sessions where you can ask any questions.

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Information on the Family Group Movement will be provided by visitors during the Masses on:

SATURDAY, MARCH 2ND: 6.00PM MASS TUNCURRY

SUNDAY, MARCH 3RD: 7.00AM MASS FORSTER  
9.00AM MASS TUNCURRY

The Co-Founder of the movement, Fr. Peter McGrath will meet with interested parishioners to help form our parish Family Groups. The dates and times are:

MONDAY, MARCH 11TH, 7.30PM, PARISH HALL, LAKE STREET

TUESDAY, MARCH 12TH, 7.30PM, PARISH HALL, LAKE STREET.

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