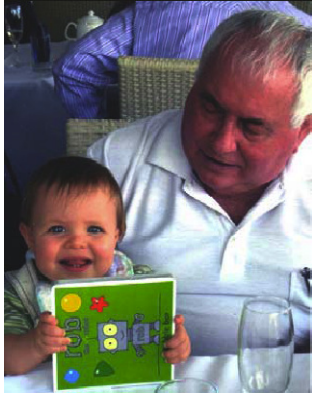


Deacon Peter Olsen (Qld), NCD Chair 2006-



I retired at the end of 2001 having worked 25 years as a cabinet maker – I ran my own business for several years –and 25 years working in Ipswich Catholic parishes (Queensland). I married Sharon in 1983, and we have a daughter, Jane, who is a Research Officer for Griffith University, working on an Australia-wide project on “whistle blowing.” Sharon is the Assistant to the Principal (Administration) at the Parish Primary School. I have four daughters from a previous marriage and two grandsons – 23 years apart.

In 1976, I became the Parish Coordinator of my home parish of St. Mary’s, with a very flexible job description. As long as everything in the Parish and the Schools was maintained in working order, everyone was happy! In 1990, I was appointed as a Pastoral Associate in the neighbouring Parish of St. Joseph’s and later also in the Immaculate Heart Parish when the two parishes shared one priest. One of my most fulfilling roles was teaching Religious Education in the local State schools – it was at times also the most frustrating.

I began studying for a Degree in Theology just before retiring and graduated in 2005. For several years, I have been an assessor for the Institute of Faith Education, which provides several courses in adult faith formation in external mode throughout the Archdiocese and beyond.

I was ordained in my local parish church by Archbishop John Bathersby on 1 March, 2005 and appointed to the parish for three years. Therefore, I’m back at St. Mary’s parish, with some set times but also the flexibility of being available for funerals etc. I preach at the Eucharist each weekend (except the fifth Sunday when I sit with Sharon), baptize and conduct marriages, as well as pre-marriage courses.