

# Passionist Family Group Movement – July 2020

News for Queensland, Lismore and Armidale Dioceses

Stories and highlights include.....

- Welcoming two members to the Northern Leadership Team: Celine Bowman and Mary-Anne Glen
- Parishes celebrating special Birthdays
- Prayer's List
- New Resources



**20 Years**  
Bundaberg

**25 Years**  
Kenmore

**30 Years**  
Redcliffe  
Murwillumbah

## **Parishes over 30 years!**

Bardon 1983  
Sawtell 1986  
Rosedale 1986  
Ipswich 1987  
Kempsey 1987  
Grovely 1987  
Booval, 1988  
Camden haven 1988  
Wauchope 1988  
Port Macquarie 1988  
St Thomas Moore- Toowoomba 1988  
Maclean 1988  
Oxley 1989  
Upper Mt Gravatt 1989  
Kyogle 1989  
Kingscliff 1989



Have we missed any parishes?

## **Welcome Celine to the Team!**

### **Celine's PFGM story**

*When I found my way to The Fort at Oxley in 2001 it felt like a "coming home" – the return to a Passionist parish and into the Passionist Family Group Movement (PFGM).*

*I knew Fr Peter McGrath when I was a teenager in the 70's – he used to turn up at family occasions as best mates with my uncle, Fr Tony Egar CP. He was a big personality, the type you remember. As a teenager & young adult (pre PFGM) I was also heavily involved with my Passionist parish – St Paul of the Cross, Glen Osmond in Adelaide, locally known as "The Monastery". When I had left home and become more interested in career and other passions, my parents joined the first family groups in that parish in the 80's.*



*After spending time living overseas, my musical interests brought me to Brisbane and, at a time when I was feeling a little lost and on my own, I went along to Mass at Bardon and discovered Passionist Family groups there. So, in 1989, I first met Gwen and Russell Winterscheidt when I joined their family group. It was a short but formative time. At about that time I met my future husband, and moved away from that area*

*Ten years later, after having lived in various bits of Queensland, and with 3 young children, we found ourselves living in the Oxley area. I started attending Mass at St Joseph's in Corinda and found my way to reconnecting with Fr Peter and the PFGM at the big "Hearts on Fire" conference in Brisbane. After not having great success with the idea of Family Groups in that parish, I felt something drawing me to The Fort. I hadn't realized how I had missed the Passionist way, and, as I said above, it was like coming home!*

*The only next hurdle was that the one family group at The Fort was getting a little large, so it became my challenge to start a new group. We are not a huge community, so there wasn't really a large existing pool of possibilities to call on. But, God led many families to The Fort over the next several years, and they became our family group ... and friends that are always there when needed.*

*I feel strongly that the community connection forged by becoming part of a family group is one of the things that kept families coming to The Fort and makes it the vibrant and committed community that it is. I have been coordinator there for some years now and am looking forward to the challenge of sharing my passion for family groups more widely now that I've joined the Northern Leadership team.*



Helen Mackie from Bundaberg is recovering from a bowel cancer operation.

Russell Winterscheidt – an operation Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July for a removal of a cancerous tumour.

We pray and send our love to all who are not well and suffering in many ways, especially at this time of Covid-19.

Please let us know if you know of someone who needs our prayers.

### A NEW RESOURCE- coming soon!

Plans are on the way for resource videos to assist parishes in:

- promoting
- encouraging
- explaining
- training
- celebrating



The Passionist Family Group Movement in parishes, schools and beyond.

**We will keep you posted**

Please check out the Passionist Family Group Website: [www.pfgm.org](http://www.pfgm.org) and Our Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/passionistfamilygroups](https://www.facebook.com/passionistfamilygroups)

Northern Leadership Team

Email: [gwen.winterscheidt@gmail.com](mailto:gwen.winterscheidt@gmail.com)

Phone: 0407 175 508

### Welcome Mary-Anne to the Team!

#### Mary-Anne's PFGM story

*My youngest son, Joseph and I joined Booval and Riverview Family Groups in 2014 after I saw a notice in the Parish Newsletter. We had been in the parish a few years, however, we wanted to feel more connected and get to know more people. We had been in a family group, in the Leichardt Parish years before, I knew they were terrific to belong too.*



*My husband and I have 5 children, 4 being much older than Joseph, my husband, Michael, is an interstate truck driver. Joseph and I are often home on our own and I thought this is just what we need an extended family.*

*Our Family Group has been perfect - friends for Joseph and support and friendships for me. We were so lucky to have in our group, another family where the husband works away, a single mum with two children and three other families. We all get on so well and appreciate the wonderful support.*

*One of my first memories was being in Toowoomba with my mum, we were delayed and not going to be back in time to pick up Joseph from school. I was very concerned. Then I thought of one of the Family Group Mums, Kate. I was so relieved and grateful that Kate was able to collect Joseph from school.*

*When I reflect on the early days and the different personalities I wondered if we would all get on. However, in time, I realise this was good for the group. What really cemented our group was having our weekends away. We have had many events and fun times and sad times too, but, that's what family is all about.*

*In our parish, about 18 months ago, the leadership roll became available. I had been leader of our own Family Group and with the support of the Northern Leaders and the other Leaders from the Booval and Riverview Family Groups I was excited to take on the roll. We have had renewal, to energise all our Family Groups with the help of Father Ray, Gwen and Russell, Jeanelle and Dennis. During this time we added more people to our groups - there has been growth and changes, it has been amazing!*

### Sunday Mass with Passionist Priest Fr Ray Sanchez

The Mass from the Passionist Retreat Centre is streamed live every weekend. To access this Mass go to the Fort Website:

<https://www.facebook.com/passionistoxley/>

