



DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

Moving Forward Together

A PROCESS OF RENEWAL IN THE DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

PASTORAL PLAN

2010 - 2014

Foreword

The Diocese of Maitland was established in 1847. For at least one hundred and twenty of those years people were confident they understood what it meant to be a Catholic and felt their salvation rested in doing what the church told them.

Today we are attempting to understand a new way of being church. The Bishop, his fellow clergy and lay leaders are charged with working together with the People of God to become the face of God as revealed by Jesus Christ in today's world. Together we strive to show our community what it means to be the Body of Christ and individually to make real the presence of God in our everyday encounters in whatever ministry we find ourselves.

In 1988, the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle embarked upon a journey to formally embrace the Spirit and Teachings of Vatican II and to launch a Diocesan Pastoral Planning process that would irrevocably link pastoral planning in the diocese to the theological principles of Vatican II. This was to take place against the background of the Diocesan Synod of 1992-93.

Pastoral Planning is a tool used by the Bishop and the Diocesan Pastoral Council to involve the diocese in a process of evaluation, imagining and planning to help the community stay in touch with the changing circumstances of life and faith. In this way the mission of Christ entrusted to the people is constantly reviewed and re-visioned and its life and faith remain refreshing, enlivening and prophetic. Pastoral Planning is essential for the ongoing life and vitality of the church.

In 2001 Pope John Paul II wrote about the processes of Pastoral Planning: ***“Let us have no illusion, unless we follow the spiritual path of a spirituality of communion, external structures of communion will serve very little purpose. They would become mechanisms without a soul ‘masks’ of communion rather than its means of expression and growth. The spirituality of Communion supplies institutional reality with a soul.”***

(Novo Millennio Ineunte (43) 2001)

Moving Forward Together is the latest interpretation of our Diocesan Pastoral Plan. The 1992/93 Diocesan Synod and subsequent Diocesan Assemblies have set the mission and structures for pastoral planning across the diocese. This version of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan incorporates a planning framework to assist parishes, the chancery and agencies to plan for both the short and long-term. It is hoped that this tool will support those involved in planning at their local level.

Bishop Michael and the Diocesan Stewardship Committee



A Process of Renewal - Moving Forward Together

The purpose of this summary sheet of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, *Moving Forward Together*, 2010 – 2014 is to give readers a brief overview of the key elements of future planning across the diocese – parishes, chancery, schools and CatholicCare.

The Diocesan Synod of 1992/93 was an attempt to capture the imagination of the Second Vatican Council's understanding of the nature and mission of church. Council documents emphasised the church as a community of God's people, a pilgrim people, journeying towards salvation, constantly in need of renewal and conversion and always called to be a sign and sacrament of the unity of all people with God. Our diocesan theological principles, contained in the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, capture the basis for our expression of church that is alert to a changing world. At the same time the plan called for the establishment of the Council-Assembly-Team model of pastoral planning and shared decision-making at parish, regional, deanery and diocesan levels.

Since 1992 there have been assemblies, council and team meetings at all levels in the diocese with the intention of hearing God's people and making real the mission of Christ here and now. Once again the people of the diocese are invited to gather with the Bishop on 5th/6th November to engage in a process of ongoing dialogue or conversation.

The *Moving Forward Together* document provides us with a planning framework that is developmental. It is not complete but invites people to conversations across all aspects of the diocese so that future planning may emerge. Good planning involves looking back to the past while being present in the now and planning for a time which is unknown. That is what we are attempting to do with each other – journey together.

The theology of *Communio* and *Missio* gives our Plan its heart and soul. We gather around the table of the Lord (Eucharist) to be nourished and sent out into the world; "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord."

A vital community lives the five foundations. Identity and Community and Worship and Prayer tend to bond and build parish communities. Formation and Education and Mission and Outreach create bridges to the wider community. Leadership and Structure provides the catalyst for inspiration and transformation. All are essential for the ongoing growth of church life.

A full copy of the *Moving Forward Together* document is available from the diocesan offices or www.mn.catholic.org.au

Diocesan Stewardship Planning Framework

What shapes our planning framework?



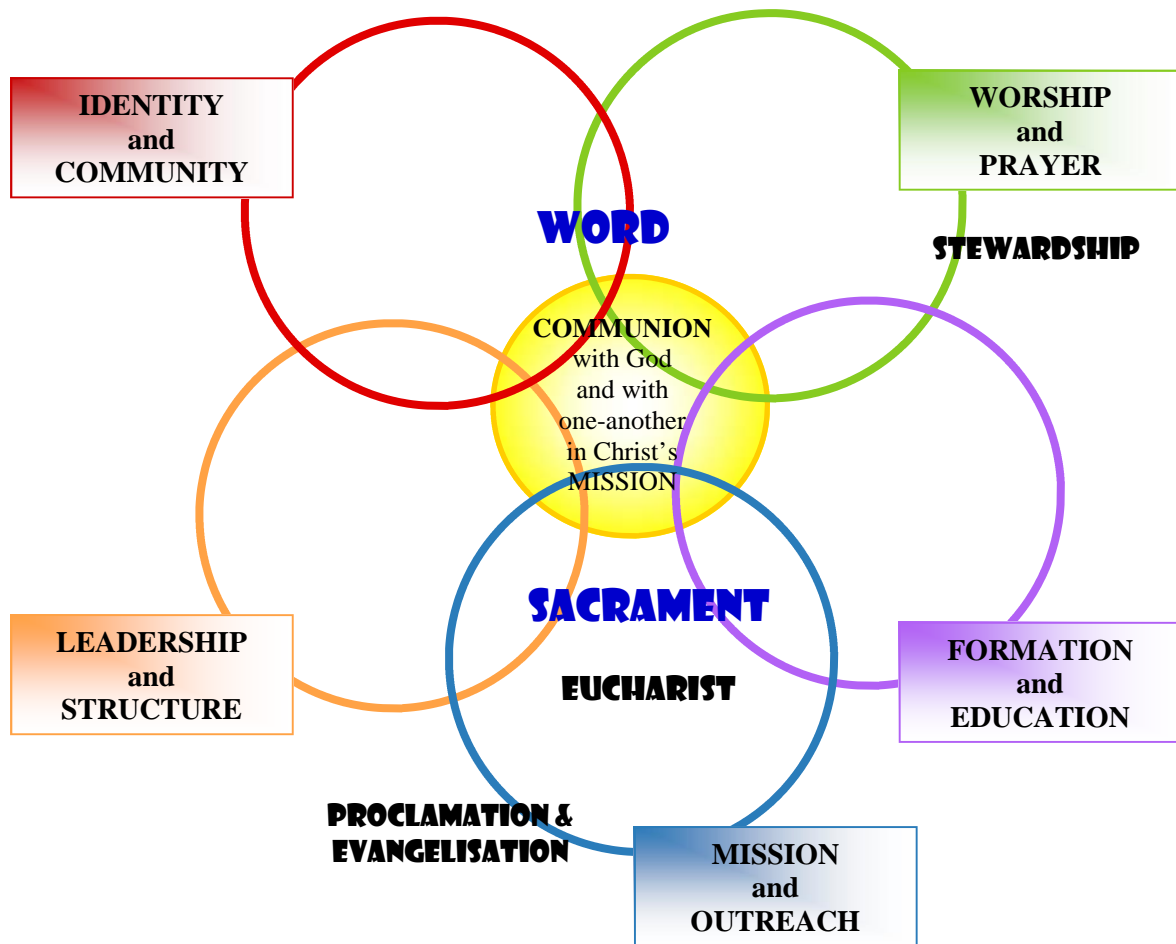
The Five Foundations (Acts 2: 42-47)



"To hear God's people and to empower them to participate fully in Christ's Mission"

5 Foundations of Church Life

“They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching (**FORMATION**) and fellowship (**COMMUNITY**), to the breaking of bread and the prayers. (**WORSHIP**) Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. (**LEADERSHIP & MINISTRY**) All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. (**MISSION & OUTREACH**) Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.” (ACTS 2:42-47)



“So you are no longer aliens or foreign visitors; you are fellow citizens with the holy people of God and part of God’s household. You are built upon the foundations of the apostles and prophets, and Christ Jesus himself is the Cornerstone. Every structure knit together in him grows into a holy temple in the Lord; and you too, in him, are being built up into a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.” (EPHESIANS 2:19-22)

Five Year Stewardship Plan Summary

Communio in
Action

Mission within
Means

WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Enhance the Quality of Worship and Prayer in Parishes

- A deeper understanding of what it means to be a Eucharistic Community
- A rich spirituality and prayer life in the community of faith that is our Diocese
- A range of opportunities for the development of prayer, spirituality and devotion
- New ways to educate clergy and lay people about liturgy to enhance the quality of worship and prayer
- Engage young people in the prayer life of the church

IDENTITY AND COMMUNITY

Build Dynamic Faith Communities

- A clear Catholic identity and distinctiveness for the Diocese, its parishes and agencies, that all can articulate and communicate
- Strong relationships with the youth of the Diocese
- Respond to issues relating to geographical remoteness
- Improved outcomes in the next National Church Life Survey (NCLS)

Build Strong Relationships

- Enhance relationships between Chancery, parishes, agencies and religious congregations
- Establish effective dynamic communications structures

FORMATION AND EDUCATION

Provide Opportunities for Education and Formation

- Provision of education and formation for pastoral ministry
- Provision of formation for youth to lead and work with other youth
- Provision of professional development to achieve best practice in a range of business areas
- Development of inter-agency professional development programs

Facilitate Learning about the Church of the Future

- New ways to educate leaders in the area of pastoral leadership

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Being an Innovative and Relevant Church in our Region

- To be more evangelising
- To develop people's sense of being missionary
- To reach out to the poor and marginalised
- Enhanced engagement with youth
- A public position on key issues of our times
- A close look at our culture, especially our youth culture

LEADERSHIP AND STRUCTURE

Develop Collaborative Processes for Diocesan Structures

- A flexible, collaborative and sustainable deanery model for the Diocese
- Develop a discernment process for the selection of Deans
- Enhance our deanery framework

Explore New Collaborative Models of Parish and Parish Leadership

- A new flexible, collaborative and sustainable model of Parish
- Recruitment, support and nurturing of Parish leaders
- Support to parishes to facilitate parish planning processes based on the Diocesan Pastoral Plan

Share Leadership of Diocese in New Collaborative Ways

- Clearly articulated diocesan/deanery governance and leadership responsibilities of agency and diocesan leaders and clergy
- Sharing of skills of different sections of the Diocese

Have an Agreed Effective Renewal and Change Management Process within the Diocese

- Manage change effectively

Implement Standardised Systems where Appropriate

- Develop systems to enhance parish operations
- Work collaboratively in Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Manage Resources Effectively and Achieve Financial Sustainability

- Enhanced management of resources of the Chancery and diocesan agencies
- Co-ordinated inter-agency formation and professional development opportunities
- Enhanced inter-agency communications
- Promote sharing of human resources
- Parishes and regions to enhance management of their resources

Collaborative
Leadership
Now

