



**DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE
DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL
BRIEF REPORT ON THE 102ND MEETING
HELD ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2010**

Present: Bishop Michael Malone, Mr Bal Gato (Chairperson), Fr Barry Tunks, VG, Mrs Teresa Brierley, Fr Tony Brady, Mrs Margaret Sheridan, Mr Ed Wright, Mrs Joan Wilson, Mr Michael Campbell, Mrs Helen Green, Mrs Kathy Kelly, Mr Ian Ross-Gowan, Ms Helen Kearney, Mr John Presland, Mrs Roxley Ryan, Mrs Shirley Spinner (Minute Secretary).

Moving Forward Together

The Moving Forward Together stewardship document has now been broken open to more than 600 people. Feedback and the DPC gave its approval to take the document to the Gathering for approval by the people.

At the Gathering the people will be asked whether the Moving Forward Together document provides sufficient guiding vision for the future of our Church in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle, before being asked to give in-principle approval to the document.

A succinct leaflet is currently in production, which summaries the Moving Forward Together documents and focuses on our Five Foundations. This will be available shortly.

Diocesan Gathering 2010

The Diocesan Gathering has been scheduled for 5/6 November 2010, to be held at St. John's Hall and St. Peter's Campus, Freechurch Street, Maitland.

The Diocesan Gathering Planning Team has met regularly to agree the program and process of the Gathering, and to identify the issues to be addressed and the outcomes to be achieved. The DPC considered their proposed program and processes and gave their input.

An Operational Team has also been set up within the Chisholm Region to oversee the operational and house-keeping arrangements for the Gathering.

A date-claimer flyer appeared in the last two issues of the Dio Update. The invitation, program and registration form will be finalised shortly and will appear in the Dio Update issue due 28 September 2010.

Regional Representation on the DPC

The Chair of the DPC welcomed new appointees from the Upper Hunter Region (John Presland) and from the Port Stephens Region (Stephen and Roxley Ryan).

Michael Campbell, City Region Representative, has resigned his seat on the Council as he is heading across to WA for 12 months in a volunteer role. His replacement is being sourced. The Chair thanked Michael on behalf of the Bishop and the DPC for his dedicated service to the Council.

The vacant position of DPC Appointee – Vicar for Religious has been removed from the DPC membership.

ACBC – Building Stronger Parishes

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has produced a series of documents "Building Stronger Parishes" which were discussed in detail at the DPC.

These documents provide excellent research and list a lot of the things that are foremost in our minds, and which we struggle with in our Parishes and Regions.

Document 2 in the series – "Ingenious Parishes: Catholic Parishes as Creators of Social Capital" will be uploaded to the Diocesan website www.mn.catholic.org.au and distributed in Gathering Registration Folders.

WYD Madrid 2011

A team is visiting the parishes and regions to promote the three available options for Pilgrimage to the WYD in Madrid. The Spain Direction option is no longer available, as communication has been received advising that it would not be possible for us to have days in the Diocese at Salamanca as it was fully booked.

The Youth Advisory Committee is arranging a Pilgrimage at local level.

Social Justice Sunday

On September 26 we celebrate Social Justice Sunday. The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference has produced its Social Justice Sunday Statement called *Violence in Australia – A Message of Peace*. The National Council of Churches in Australia also publishes a statement called *Peace Be With You – Witnessing to peace in a violent world*. Ian Ross-Gowan, Chair of the DPC Social Justice Council, will summarise these documents and distribute his summary to Parish Councils. The full documents are also available on the Diocesan website www.mn.catholic.org.au

Next DPC Meeting

The DPC will meet next of Saturday 27 November, 2010 in the Toohey Room, Bishop Clarke House, Hamilton commencing at 9.00am.

To contact the DPC phone 4979 1111 or e-mail shirley.spinner@mn.catholic.org.au