



DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

BRIEF REPORT ON THE 120TH MEETING

HELD ON SATURDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2014

Present: Bishop Bill Wright, Fr Brian Mascord, Mrs. Teresa Brierley, Mrs Trish Hales, Mr Lawrie Hallinan, Fr Kevin Corrigan, Mrs Lisa Short, Mr Ray Collins, Mrs Pat Campbell, Mrs Judy Crittenden, Mr Bal Gato, Mr Andrew McGinlay, Mr Lance Scriven, Mrs Irene Gover, Mr John Presland, Mrs Kate Bartlett, Mr Ray Keast-Jones, Mr James Elliott.

Bishop's Leadership Forum

The DPC members discussed the need to report back to the church community the outcomes from the Moving Forward Together 2011- 2014 pastoral plan, as the outcomes could provide recommendation about future pastoral plans. It was felt that there should be a gathering or assembly to present outcomes from the Moving Forward Together 2011- 2014 and the next pastoral plan.

The DPC recommended to Bishop Bill the following:

1. The 2014 Bishop's Leadership Forum, report to be distributed to all those who were invited and present.
2. A small working party to be formed to coordinate the planning of the priorities identified at the 2014 Bishop's Leadership Forum.
3. Appoint a planning group to prepare for a gathering or assembly.

Bishop Bill accepted the above three recommendations. To implement the recommendations accepted by Bishop Bill at this meeting, the DPC Executive to begin to put a framework around these recommendations.

Regional Gatherings – where to from here

The following regions indicated they are happy to trial the new process:

- Vineyard Region, as indicated by Fr Tony Potts
- Upper Hunter as indicated by John Presland
- City Region, as indicated by Mons Hart

As the Upper Hunter currently has a functional Regional Pastoral Council, who meet regularly, but would still like to participate in the pilot of Regional Gatherings, the model adapted would be different to the others.

It was decided to limit the pilot to two meetings one for the Vineyards and other for the Upper Hunter. Both the Vineyard and Upper Hunter regions would be very different models, and the gatherings could possibly be held on a Saturday during May 2014. By having the meetings in May this would assist with budgeting implications, as there may be costs associated with an action raised. The budget is nearly finalised by the end of May, but there is an option to apply for an out of budget application.

It was felt the gatherings could start with the results of the Bishop's Leadership Forum being presented. It will be

necessary to listen to conversations, record the issues discussed and provide actions for the issues raised.

The DPC Executive would consult with the local priests about the gathering to maximise the exposure.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on 14th December 2013, was accepted as accurate.

Bishop's Update

Happenings around the Diocese

Bishop Bill attended the Call to Serve Mass, which provides a blessing to all new teachers and announces those that have received awards for their contribution to teaching in our schools.

Royal & Special Commission of Inquiry

The NSW Special Commissions of Inquiry report was due to be released on 28th February, but will now be submitted to the Governor on 31 May 2014. It is expected that the report will be made available to the public shortly thereafter.

The Royal Commission focus has been on a school in Toowoomba. It is the second catholic focus and is a fairly recent case. It appears to be a case of not following protocols and procedures, and requiring much stronger supervision to ensure that they are followed.

Overseas Priests Program

A number of people have enquired about becoming a priest, in this diocese.

A priest is still awaiting clearance for his Visa in Nigeria. He is very frustrated on the long process immigration is taking; there is some concern about stress this has on his well being.

Fr James Odho will have a placement at Wallsend Parish, and other diocesan ministries. There will be a 12 months getting to know you period.

Regional/Council/Agencies Updates Regional Reports

It was noted that some of the questions raised in the DPC regional report are beyond the scope of the

DPC council and should be directed to the relevant body.

Council Reports

Diocesan Council for Ministry with Young People

The DCMYP Chair showed a diocesan video from the Catholic Youth Festival during morning tea. The video is available on the Diocesan Website for all to view. Parish are asked to play the video during Mass.

Diocesan Adult Faith Formation Council

The Adult Faith Formation Council has provided a brochure of the programs being run in conjunction with TWEC for the next 6 months. The programs are designed for lay people who are currently serving or are seeking to serve, in a parish or diocesan ministry position. The brochure has been sent out to all Parish Priest, and a copy is available on the Diocesan website.

Agencies Reports

Catholic Schools Officer

The P&F have re-introduced the Bishop's award. The nominations are for students who have made a contribution to their school and parish community. The successful applicants were announced during Catholic Schools Week.

Vatican Family Survey

All responses were collated for the Vatican Survey. A report has been delivered to Bishop Bill. Bishop Bill has sent the report to the ACBC who is compiling the responses from all Bishops in Australia to then be forwarded to Rome.

Dio Update

Dio Update has a new format; if there are any problems viewing it please let contact Liam Beckett, Diocesan Website Developer & Online Communication Officer.

Sudanese Appeal

Bishop Bill has launched a special appeal to help South Sudanese families. To date about \$20, 000 has been raised.

Catholic Missions

Barry Urwin Diocesan Director Catholic Mission will be breaking open the *Evangelii Gaudium*, this will be held later in the year.

Pastoral Research Office

The Pastoral Research Office has produced a profile on all parishes around Australia based on the 2011 Australian Census. The diocese has purchased a profile on all parishes within Maitland-Newcastle. Each parish has received a copy of their parish profile. The Pastoral Research Office can run workshops to provide training on how to use the information.

Fr Richard Shortall

Fr Richard Shortall, will be coming to the Chisholm region to facilitate a retreat, in May. Fr Richard will also facilitate a retreat in another region, details are still being finalised.

Date of Next DPC Meeting 2014

The next meeting of the DPC is Saturday 3rd May 2014, in the Toohey Room, Cathedral House, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle, commencing at 9.00am.

To contact the DPC phone 4979 1117 or e-mail Alyson.Segrott@mn.catholic.org.au