



DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

BRIEF REPORT ON THE 121ST MEETING

HELD ON SATURDAY 2RD MAY 2014

Present: Bishop Bill Wright, Fr Brian Mascord, Mrs. Teresa Brierley, Mrs Trish Hales, Mr Lawrie Hallinan, Mr Ray Collins, Mrs Judy Crittenden, Mr Bal Gato, Mr Andrew McGinlay Mr Lance Scriven, Mrs Irene Gover, Mr John Presland, Mr John Donnelly, Mr Elroy Aguiar, Sr Louise Gannon, Mrs Shirley McHugh.

Regional Reports / DPC Evaluation Summary

Trish Hales said the DPC Evaluation summary provided a good insight in to the DPC meetings. Trish has looked at the DPC Terms of Reference (ToR) and noted that some things in the ToR are not happening as they should.

Many agreed that the summary was an accurate description of what is happening at the meetings.

Comment was made that in terms of initiative the DPC has fantastic ideas for the way of the future and the diocesan parish structure but struggle with the requirements to take ideas back to the parishes. Currently, as the DPC members are aware, this is limited, and the DPC is working on how to address this and other structures.

It was noted that the DPC and Bishop Bill are working together to change the way things are done, and may ask the relevant bodies to do the tasks.

Bishop Bill sees the regional councils as establishing what is happening in their area and that he notes that there is some structural problems in this being achieved. The DPC has made significant strides forward during his time, in the pastoral sense. In the future we possibly may be able to address the issues about information being communicated between the regional councils and the diocese. This level of consultation is important. On a positive note Bishop Bill valued the Bishop's Leadership Forum.

Trish thanked the DPC members for taking the steps required to move initiatives forward.

Regional Gatherings

A gathering has been organised for the Vineyards Region for 17th May at Pokolbin Community Hall. Fr Tony Potts and Fr George Mullappallil from the Vineyards Region will be attending. A flyer has been put in all the Vineyards Region mass centres and schools. The format for the gathering will be open, with an opportunity to listen. DPC members are welcome to attend the gathering.

Teresa will be attending an Upper Hunter Regional meeting on Sunday 4th May to discuss how they would like to hold their regional gathering.

Diocesan Gathering / Assembly

The working group have held their first meeting and discussed the history of the diocesan gatherings. The working party will review documentation of past Assemblies and Gatherings to determine common themes and challenges which will be discussed at the next two meetings. A recommendation will be presented to the DPC at the meeting on 26th July.

Bishop's Leadership Forum Priority Allocations

The working party have met and re-examined the list, no changes have been made to the priorities but a couple have been merged into more appropriate sections. None of the priorities are more important than the other. Each priority has been allocated a key driver, who is not responsible for implementing the priorities but will be the coordinator with the other organisations to implement the priorities.

The next steps are for the Diocesan Executive to contact the key drivers to ask them to get in touch with the nominated organisations identified for the priority, to ask them how are they going to achieve the priorities then report back outcomes to the Bishop Bill and the Diocesan Executive.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on 22nd February 2014, was accepted as accurate.

Bishop's Update

Happenings around the Diocese

The Pastoral Care Crisis Appeal for Refugees has been well supported and has reached its target quite quickly. The appeal for the Night Care Van replacement has received some money through the appeal in Aurora.

A number of priests attended the clergy retreat this year, the focus was on the Pope's Evangelii Gaudium "Joy of the Gospel". The guest speakers were Fr Elio Capra and Fr Noel Connelly who presented on Mission, Discipleship and Evangelisation.

Bishop Bill reported that he is looking at the planning for priests who are coming to retirement time and getting the timing right for moves and replacement appointments. Fr Paul Hopper, a Spiritian priest, will reside in Muswellbrook while Fr. John Alexander is on leave. Lay Leadership Teams are now in Morisset,

Gloucester and Krumbach parishes. Parishes are interested in the lay leadership model.

The study into the review of teaching of Religion in Secondary Schools is ongoing. There will be a greater concentration on specialised knowledge of Religion in secondary schools now. A program has been designed to assist teacher's who teach RE in Secondary, as well as providing specialist training to assist teachers to gain professional qualification to teach RE in secondary schools.

The study into the provision of Catholic Secondary Education is underway, the survey has been sent out to all parents, staff and students. This will provide valuable statistical data and on top of the demographics will provide information on emergence of new secondary schools in the diocese.

The ordination of Peter Street as Deacon will take place on 30th May at St Joseph's Church, East Maitland.

CatholicCare Social Services, Out Of Home Care (OOHC) now have up to 140 approved placements. A new office will be opening in Cardiff. CCSS offices are now located in Mayfield, Maitland, Charlestown and Taree. The Mayfield affordable housing will open on 1st July.

Royal & Special Commission of Inquiry

The NSW Special Commissions of Inquiry report was due to be released on 31st May 2014.

The Royal Commission recent focus has been on Christian Brothers and child migrants from Castledare, Clontarf, Bindoon and Tardun in Western Australia.

The Truth Justice and Healing Commission have made a submission to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. In the future, claims for compensation may be dealt with through an alternate body, separate from the Church and empowered to resolve claims equitably.

Regional/Council/Agencies Updates

Regional Reports

Lawrie Hallinan tabled the City Region report at the meeting, which provided a summary of the Inner City Parishes Assembly.

Port Stephens Region Report, states that the Raymond Terrace PPC had concerns re use of LicenSing for copyright purposes by schools and parishes. Louise Gannon, Liturgy Council Representative explained that all areas were responsible for recording copyright. It was not enough to just acknowledge the author but this information needs to be recorded with the relevant licensing body such as WOLI or LicenSing to ensure payment to the author. Copyright information is available on the Diocesan website or by looking at the Diocese of Wollongong website.

Council Reports

Liturgy Council

The Liturgy Council has arranged for *LiturgyHelp* Trial in every Parish which has been sent a pack. Free workshops will be held from 20th to 22nd June. Parishes are asked to make the most of the four months free access

Diocesan Council for Ministry with Young People

The council has launched a Facebook page and Youtube channel, to be able to reach out to a wider audience. DPC members are encouraged to provide Elroy with their email address if they would like to subscribe to the Youth Newsletter. Elroy reported that the Pints with Purpose will have Kath Evans as guest speaker. The DCMYP need more assistance in getting parishes to advertise these events.

Diocesan Adult Faith Formation Council

The Adult Faith Formation Council worked closely with the Diocesan Parish Assistance Unit to provide a Secretaries Networking day which was a significant success. Planning is underway for a Faith Family Forum to be held later in the year.

Agencies Report

Catholic Schools Officer

The Way of the Cross was held at Toronto. Ray stressed that this is not a schools event but that Catholic, Christian and State schools' students are asked to participate. He thanked the Morisset and Toronto Parishes for their wonderful involvement. This year the Ceremony was held inside due to the weather.

First term has been very busy with Called to Serve Mass and Catholic Schools Week activities and with the re-introduction of the Bishop's awards, the winners were announced during Diocesan Catholic Schools Week Mass.

Date of Next DPC Meeting 2014

The next meeting of the DPC is Saturday 26th July 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

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