



DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

BRIEF REPORT ON THE 122ND ST MEETING

HELD ON SATURDAY 26 JULY 2014

Present: Bishop Bill Wright, Mrs. Teresa Brierley, Mrs Trish Hales, Mr Lawrie Hallinan, Mrs Judy Crittenden, Mr Bal Gato, Mr Andrew McGinlay Mrs Irene Gover, Mr John Donnelly, Sr Louise Gannon, Mrs Shirley McHugh. **Invited:** Helene O'Neill

Report from Parish-Family Liaison Officer

Helene explained that her role was originally a 12 month pilot project, initiated by the DPC and is now in its third year. Originally the pilot project covered the parishes and schools in the Blackbutt region. In the second year it was expanded to include parishes and schools in the Inner City, Mayfield and Stockton areas. The project now covers 15 catholic schools.

Helene presented her report, which is based on The "Five Foundations", each of the initiatives has been consulted with Bishop Bill, Teresa Brierley and Ray Collins. Helene provides a monthly report on her activities and indicates how the initiatives are going.

Helene feels that the role brings an identity to the schools as a parish representative, and that she is a well known face among the children, mothers and parishioners. Her role continues to grow and has introduced her to parents through sport activities, and has created opportunities to bring the church to them, such as a liturgy being held this year at Merewether Beach nippers.

The DPC raised concerns that if the project expands into other areas, Helene's capacity to work effectively would be challenged.

Vineyards Regional Gathering

A gathering was held at the Vineyards on 17th May; although the numbers were small the people who did attend were committed to see outcomes.

The gathering was presented in two parts. The first part the Parish Priest, Catholic Schools, CatholicCare Social Services presented the strengths in the region. In the second part the parishioner were asked to identify what they wanted to discuss. Voting took place and the top three votes, Lay Leadership, School Links with Parishes and Parish Master Plan were open for further discussion and to determine outcomes.

Teresa has assisted in implementing Parish Leadership Teams in Gloucester, Krambach and Morisset parishes. As a result of the Vineyards Regional Gathering she is now working with Fr. Tony Potts and the Parishes of Cessnock/Kurri Kurri Advisory Council to look at what type of model they would like

Teresa has visited the Upper Hunter twice, and is currently working with the Regional Pastoral Council in planning for a gathering. The proposed gathering will be

held in November; the proposed program would be input followed by lunch, then open conversations. Lunch will be a significant part of the gathering as the parishioners in this region like to take the opportunity to reconnect with each other.

Diocesan Gathering / Assembly

Teresa presented a report on behalf of the working party. The working party have recommended that a gathering be held as there is nothing to be decided at an assembly level. The working party has suggested that another working party be formed, that will determine the specific purpose of future assemblies.

Bishop's Leadership Forum Priority Allocations

The Executives are working on the priorities; the report provides an update of tasks that have been completed.

DPC outgoing and incoming members

Shirley McHugh indicated that she would continue her term as Social Justice Council Representative.

Lawrie Hallinan, City Regional Representative, term has expired and will not be continuing. No replacement has been found.

Bal Gato, Eastlakes Regional Representative, term expired last year and was appointed for a further 12 months or until a replacement could be found. No replacement has been found as yet.

John Presland, Upper Hunter Regional Representative, term has expired. John was not present at the meeting, but has explained to Teresa that distance is an issue. No replacement has been found.

Bishop Bill was asked if these positions should now become vacant. There was some concern that if the positions were left vacant that the voice of these regions will not be heard, with the risk of no replacement being found. This issue to be considered further by Bishop Bill

Lawrie, Bal and John were invited to attend the next DPC meeting as major discussion would be about Regional Reports and it was felt that their input would be valuable.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on 3rd May 2014, was accepted as accurate.

Bishop's Update

Happenings around the Diocese

Bishop Bill said the main concern at the moment is how to address the number of clergy that will be retiring. There is some uncertainty of how to address this shortage. There are a number of leadership models at the moment being run, but no plans in place to address the shortage of clergy. It is likely the shortage will come before any plans are in place.

The new Chisholm primary school continues to progress well; the first structure of the school, the end of the chapel has been erected, and provides a visual symbol. The enrolments are already steady for Kindergarten to Year Four.

Land at Medowie has been purchased adjacent to Pacific Dunes Golf Course on Medowie road. There is potential for future development for a secondary school and a primary school.

Sale of land at Sandgate nursing home has been finalised, with Calvary obtaining the land.

Black Hill rezoning application is on public exhibition. Due to the location of the land at the end of express way the land has been identified as a regional development for connecting the Hunter Valley.

Royal & Special Commission of Inquiry

The fourth part of the NSW Special Commission is still to be released. It is known that a Senior Clergy Official may be implicated, but no further announcement as yet. A committee has been formed to determine an appropriate outcome for Mons Allan Hart and Fr Bill Burston. Bishop Bill feels this is the correct way to make an accurate decision.

The Royal Commission continues with its investigation of a Religious Brother in Perth. The hearing in Wollongong showed better processes. The Royal Commission has called for an extension of another two years, but no decision has been made yet.

Regional/Council/Agencies Updates

Regional Reports

The reports were noted as read. Further discussion would be addressed at the next meeting once the regional survey reports have been collated.

Council Reports

Ecumenical and Interfaith Council

The council's chair Lawrie Caelli has resigned and only three members remain. Teresa will arrange a meeting with the remaining members to discuss the future of the council. Ecumenical and Interfaith initiatives are active, through Social Justice Dinners and the Diocesan Support Unit.

Liturgy Council

Liturgy Help workshops were well attended, it took a month for people to use but parishes are now getting on

board. Louise is currently organising through RE in CSO for schools to trial Liturgy Help.

Agencies Report

CatholicCare Social Services

Director of CCSS, Lisa Short has resigned; as such no report has been provided. CCSS is currently being managed by the Operation Managers Kathryn Puckeridge – Out of Home Care Manager, Lee Liewes – Community Services Manager and Helga Smith – Taree Manager. The managers are sharing the director role with support from Graham Health, CCSS Finance Secretariat.

Diocesan Information Directory

The directory was designed by Geri Williams and Jo Isaac from the Communications Team. The directory has been provided to all Diocesan staff, parish catholic schools and religious orders. Since then there has been some gaps identified and these have been corrected, and are available on the online version.

Date of Next DPC Meeting 2014

The next meeting of the DPC is Saturday 20th September 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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