



DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

BRIEF REPORT ON THE 127TH MEETING

HELD ON SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2015

Present: DPC members - Bishop Bill Wright, Fr Brian Mascord, Mrs. Teresa Brierley, Fr Kevin Corrigan, Mr Ray Collins, Mrs Judy Crittenden, Mr Lance Scriven, Mrs Irene Gover, Mr John Donnelly, Mrs Maryanne Hacker, Mrs Alyson Segrott, Mrs Shirley McHugh.

Macquarie and Western Region Gathering Report

The DPC members reviewed and evaluated the gathering report, a copy of this report has been provided to the parishes.

Appointment of DPC Chair

With the resignation to current DPC chairperson, it was recommended that an independent chairperson be appointed for 2016. For now Lance will be the acting chairperson. DPC members are welcome to make suggestions to Bishop Bill of anyone they feel is suitable for the role as DPC Chair.

DPC Regional Vacancies

Bishop Bill invited the clergy to nominate suitable people to be put forward to join the DPC, these positions would be as a representative person not as a regional representative. Bishop Bill will meet with nominated people, prior to being appointed to the DPC.

Revised Council Terms of Reference

The new Diocesan Council Terms of Reference were accepted by the DPC, and will be circulated to all the Councils.

150 Years Celebrations

The working group have held two meetings so far. A sub group has been appointed to plan the launch of the celebrations. This will be held on 6th November at The Factory, St Pius X, Adamstown, with Fr Liam Lawton in concert and a cocktail evening. The restoration of St John's Chapel and Mass will be the major celebrations for the year. The celebrations will incorporate the Year of Mercy. The group are designing a logo with three key words Service / Worship / Mission.

World Youth Day 2016

The registration form is now available on Facebook and will be put on the diocesan website soon.

Australian Catholic Youth Festival currently have 80 people attending. Each parish is invited to consider sending someone from their parish.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on 11th July 2015, was accepted as accurate.

Correspondence In

A letter from a Mallabula parishioner was tabled at the meeting for discussion. The letter asked what as a

diocese were we doing to provide assistance to the Syrian refugee crisis. The questions raised were around the availability of houses in the diocese and if a diocesan donation account could be set up.

Lance explained that the Wingham parish are also wanting to assist but are not sure how or who to approach to provide assistance. It was felt that other parishes at the local level also did not have information or contact details of other agencies about the correct process to follow to assist the refugees.

It was decided that there needs to be a collaborative approach to the crisis, to ensure that the correct controls and processes are being followed. A small working party could be formed, with people who are well informed about refugee and crisis assistance services and their agencies, once the government have released the details of where and how the refugees will be processed.

Date of Next DPC Gathering 2015

The next gathering of the DPC is Saturday 28th November 2015, at St James Primary School, Vista Parade, Kotara, commencing at 9.00am. All welcome to attend.

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