



DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

BRIEF REPORT ON THE 128TH MEETING

HELD ON SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2015

Present: DPC members - Bishop Bill Wright, Fr Brian Mascord, Mrs. Teresa Brierley, Ms Helga Smit, Mrs Judy Crittenden, Mr Lance Scriven, Mr John Donnelly, Mrs Alyson Segrott, Sr Louise Gannon, Mrs Shirley McHugh, Blackbutt and Eastlakes parishioners

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes from the meeting held on 19th September 2015, was accepted as accurate.

Bishop's Update

Pope Francis has held his Family Synod and will respond in a letter during Year of Mercy.

The Royal Commission continues, current investigation are on the Ballarat and Melbourne Catholic sexual abuse. The Truth, Justice and Healing Council continues to respond to the Royal Commission request for submissions. The Royal Commission will conclude in 2017.

Regions Update

Due to the low numbers of regional representatives an update was not provided.

Council Updates

Adult Faith Formation

John Donnelly on behalf to the council, provided the update. They are looking at formation programs especially in regards to the Christian Formation Course and the role of TWEC. Considering a proposal for formation of families with children attending the new Catholic School in Chisholm. Developing Year of Mercy programs for 2016.

Diocesan for Ministry with Young People

In the absence of James Elliott, Teresa provided an overview of the council. The council holds monthly events, such as Pint with a Purpose and Seven@SacredHeart. A yearly retreat called, Be, Show, Grow to be held at Kilaben Bay in March. The council will assist with World Youth Day 2016 and have a Spirit and Truth Band.

Ecumenical and Interfaith

Alyson Segrott explained that the Ecumenical and Interfaith Council had in the past struggled due to few members on the council and welcome new members to be part of the council. This year there has been a new connection with Newcastle Muslim community, and the council had recently held an Interfaith Dialogue and hosted a Muslim morning tea.

Liturgy

Louise Gannon explained that the Liturgy Council will next year hold a number of workshops to assist with liturgy formation, such as Triduum workshop,

Confirmation workshops and Master of Ceremonies Workshops.

Social Justice

Shirley McHugh, provided an update for the council who will be looking to hold a dinner to raise awareness about Domestic Violence, with Rosie Batty, Australian of Year and Natasha Maclaren-Jones, Member of the Legislative Council as guest speakers. A workshop during Mental Health Week will also be held next year.

Agencies Updates

Catholic Schools Office

In the absence of Ray Collins, Director of Catholic Schools Office, Bishop Bill explained there are 56 Catholic schools in the diocese, with a new school St Aloysius Primary School in Chisholm opened this year.

Bishop Bill said that there has been two very important studies during his time in the diocese. The recent one being Secondary Steering Committee study, the recommendation from this study have been adopted.

CatholicCare Social Services

Helga Smit, Director of CatholicCare provided an overview of services offered by CatholicCare, which serves this region. There are number of services that are available to the parishioners and their families

Regional Gathering

A regional gathering was held with Blackbutt and Eastlakes regional parishioners and representatives.

A report on the gathering has been circulated to all those who attended.

Date of Next DPC Meeting 2016

The next meeting of the DPC is Saturday 20th February 2016, in the Toohey Room, Cathedral House, 841 Hunter St, Newcastle, commencing at 9.00am. (DPC members only)

Next Regional Gathering: Northern and Port Stephens (Myall Coast) region is 28th May 2016, in the Holy Name Parish Hall, 33 Lakes St, Forster, commencing at 9.00am

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