



## DIOCESE OF MAITLAND-NEWCASTLE

### DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

#### BRIEF REPORT ON THE 129<sup>TH</sup> MEETING

HELD ON SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2016

**Present:** DPC members - Bishop Bill Wright, Fr Brian Mascord, Mrs Teresa Brierley, Fr Kevin Corrigan, Mrs Judy Crittenden, Mr Lance Scriven, Mrs Irene Gover, Mr Jim Curran, Mr John Donnelly, Mr James Elliott, Mrs Alyson Segrott, Mr Brian Lacey.

#### **Appointment of DPC Chair**

Bishop Bill advised that an appointment of a chair to the DPC, is progressing and will advise outcome of DPC chair once known. Lance Scriven would remain as acting chair until the appointment is filled.

#### **Blackbutt and Eastlakes Region Gathering Report**

The DPC felt this gathering worked well, and should continue with the new process.

In order to maintain ongoing communication with parishes, the DPC will follow up with the parishes regarding how the gathering worked for them this would provide good follow-up and connection.

The Diocesan Pastoral Support Unit (DPSU) should follow up with parishes that have held a gathering to enquire how they are progressing with the key priorities that were determined. Also ask if assistance is needed from DPSU.

Bishop Bill said he is happy with the new process to continue, and feels that the process has increased the value of the gatherings.

#### **150 Years Celebrations**

The working group have been meeting for over 6 months now, and have finalised the extra ordinary activities as per attachment. This will be circulated to Clergy and put on Dio Update.

#### **World Youth Day 2016**

The pilgrimage will be an intergenerational pilgrimage in which there will be two itineraries offered due to the increased travel demands on Poland. Cosmo has advised there is a maximum of 80 pilgrims who can attend, with 40 pilgrims having an extra night in Warsaw and 40 pilgrims having extra night in Rome. It is hoped that parishes might assist in sponsoring pilgrims to WYD. The CSO is sponsoring some teachers and students.

#### **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes from the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2015, was accepted as accurate.

#### **Correspondence In**

The DPC accepted the CACW report. It was recommended that a small working group from DPC and CACW representatives work on the recommendations

from the report. The working group will report its findings to the DPC meeting in September.

#### **Bishop's Update**

Fr Richard Shortall SJ, has recently returned from Rome, after being appointed by Pope Francis as a Missionary of Mercy (MoM) for this diocese. Fr Richard has become well known while in Rome, as the missionary on wheels, as he will be travelling around the diocese in a motor home.

Fr Richard was commissioned by Bishop Bill, at East Maitland parish. Fr Richard will be sent out to parishes who are in need of mercy and healing. The sisters from TWEC will arrive at each parish prior to his visit to prepare the parishioners for his arrival. He has a specific MoM email address and mobile.

John Pelletier will be ordained as a deacon at Gloucester. Camillius Nwahia will be ordained to priesthood on 4th June. James Odoh will be ordained to priesthood later in the year. There are no plans to appoint any overseas priests at this stage.

The diocese has ventured into early childhood education, with the taking over of the Singleton parish childcare now becoming a St Nicholas Early Education Centre. Other centres to open will be Newcastle West and Cardiff. Affordable housing is going ahead in Maitland. There will be a new high school in Chisholm and Medowie. The Parish Placement Program (PPP) will run again this year, with people to commence in March. Melissa Fenech and Sam Hill, who participated in last year's PPP, have been appointed as Family Community Faith Coordinators.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) announced that, 2018 will be "Year of Youth". This was announced at the end of Australian Catholic Youth Festival as it will be 10 years since WYD 2008 was held in Sydney.

#### **Date of Next DPC Gathering 2016**

The next gathering of the DPC is Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2016, at Holy Name, Parish Hall, 33 Lake St, Forster, commencing at 9.00am. All welcome to attend.

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