

## Diocesan Pastoral Councils functioning at 1 July 2023

Peter Wilkinson

### Adelaide

The Diocesan Pastoral Council will work to further the discernment and implementation of recommendations from the Diocesan Assembly and the decrees of the Plenary Council.

#### **The Diocesan Pastoral Council is:**

- an expression of commitment to the journey of synodality in the Archdiocese of Adelaide;
- a major diocesan body which exercises leadership under the authority of the Archbishop by investigating, considering and proposing practical priorities and strategies about the spiritual and pastoral life and activity in the Archdiocese;
- a community of dialogue, reflection and discernment which seeks and listens to the voices of all in the local Church and the people of this part of the world;
- a consultative body in partnership with other diocesan bodies to support the Archbishop, diocesan leadership and other bodies in their local church leadership roles.

#### **It carries out the key functions:**

1. To work with the Archbishop and Archdiocesan leaders to strategically plan the implementation of the outcomes arising from the 5th Australian Plenary Council and Diocesan assemblies.
2. To discern and develop, through wide consultation, the vision and mission of the Archdiocese.
3. To endeavour to identify the challenges and needs of the Archdiocese in its life and mission to this part of the world.
4. To raise matters which the Council considers to be of spiritual and pastoral concern, and after discernment, to make appropriate recommendations to the Archbishop.
5. To receive information or briefings on matters deemed to be of significant spiritual and pastoral importance to the people of the diocese.
6. To review proposals that seek to make changes to the existing structure of parishes within the diocese and provide advice to the Archbishop on their suitability.
7. To develop and implement strategies and mechanisms for consultation and communication with key councils, commissions, advisory bodies, relevant agencies, (e.g. Council of Priests, Diocesan Finance Council, Parish Pastoral Councils, etc.) as well as schools, parishes and other forms of Catholic communities throughout the Archdiocese.
8. To convene Diocesan assemblies and provide opportunities for consultation across the Archdiocese.
9. To ensure the progression, review and reporting of its decisions as well as the provision for communication with and feedback from key councils, advisory bodies and relevant agencies through an executive function of the Council which operates with the assistance of the Pastoral Services Team.
10. To conduct a review of its purpose and functions every 2 years.

[Click here for the full Terms of Reference.](#)

## Current Work

- [Vision and Mission](#)

These Vision and Mission Statements were developed by the DPC following from discernment of the 2021 Diocesan Assembly recommendations and reviewed following the 2022 Diocesan Assembly. These statements will be reviewed annually.

### **Archdiocese of Adelaide Vision Statement (2022)**

The Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide is a welcoming, Christ-centred community of believers serving others. As missionary disciples, we are committed to building up the Body of Christ by listening, discerning and growing in the Spirit, journeying together.

### **Archdiocese of Adelaide Mission Statement (2022)**

As followers of Jesus Christ, loved by God, nurtured and formed in community we are called to be:

- Sharers of faith, hope and love
- Builders of bridges
- Healers of broken relationships
- Agents of transformation in our world.

## Ballarat

The **Diocesan Pastoral Council** is a group of people from various places around the diocese of Ballarat whom Bishop Paul has invited to reflect with him on the needs of the diocese. Through their meetings, **DPC** members will share their own insights and also be a channel for the insights of others.

### **Objectives of the Diocesan Pastoral Council**

- To inform the decision-making process of the Bishop by its consideration of issues raised at the meetings of the Council;
- To develop practical strategies for enhancing faith life within the diocese for the Bishop's consideration;
- To reflect on pastoral directions and priorities for the diocese;
- To make recommendations in these areas to the Bishop;
- To listen to and be aware of pastoral needs amongst parishes, communities or particular groups of parishioners and bring these issues forward;
- To offer information and encouragement to those with whom it has relationships, including Parish Pastoral Councils, Leadership Teams and Parishioners of Ballarat Diocese.

### **The members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council are:**

- Bishop Paul Bird
- Fr Kevin Maloney – *Vicar General*
- Marie Shaddock
- Elizabeth Clarke
- Paul O'Beirne
- Pauline Stapleton
- Thomas Thukkumury
- DPC Executive Officer

## Book List

Over recent years the **Diocesan Pastoral Council** has developed an initiative for getting library books into parishes with up-to-date titles available for new and occasional parishioners. The list was developed in conjunction with the Diocesan Resource Centre. You may wish to consider purchasing some or all of these titles for your Parish. Books are available through Pauline Books, Booktopia and Garrett Publishing

## Bathurst

The Diocesan Pastoral Council is an advisory body to Bishop McKenna on pastoral matters, aiming to improve and ensure the sustainability of the Diocese's future. **Its six workgroups**, established by the Bishop, include:

- Hearing and Proclaiming the Word of God
- Worshipping God in Prayer and Sacrament
- Building a Community of Love and Service
- Participation of Indigenous Catholics
- Participation of Young Catholics
- The Domestic Church: Marriage and Families

These six groups work together to progress matters in our Diocese that concern their particular apostolate and each reports to the Bishop. Each group has a Convenor and these six people meet regularly with the Bishop and ex-officio members, forming a Steering Committee.

The Diocesan Assembly is usually the annual gathering of all members of the DPC; with the real work of the Council happening in the workgroups during the year.

### DPC Working Groups

#### Hearing and Proclaiming the Word of God

This is so much more than reading at Mass, though we have begun and will continue to build on the calling and formation of people carrying out this important ministry.

It is more basically about helping everyone to access and receive the Word of God that comes to us in the Scriptures and the teaching of the Church. The "Word and Faith" groups started after the last Assembly were a first attempt to do that, but much more needs to be done.

In other words, it is about evangelisation, our basic mission. It involves how we hand on the faith in our own schools, in government schools, in sacramental programs and in inviting people and giving good quality formation to them in the RCIA.

#### Worshipping God in Prayer and Sacrament

We have important work to do ensuring that our parish, school and other liturgies (especially, but not only, the Mass) are of the highest quality, in communion with the Church, that we can manage. Liturgy is prayer and its true quality comes out of the relationship with Christ that we bring to it as individuals and a community. Formation in personal and family prayer and the availability of good retreats is a vital part of nourishing that relationship.

#### Building a Community of Love and Service

We cannot become Christians on our own. We need one another to share our journeys of faith, especially when the road becomes rocky.

Part of that sharing is cooperating in works of service and promotion of justice for people inside and outside the Church, meeting Christ in those who suffer or are excluded.

This cooperation has to be practical and attentive to caring for the temporal needs of our parishes, our diocese and the wider Church.

### **Indigenous Catholics**

Thirty years ago in Alice Springs, Pope St John Paul II said to aboriginal peoples that “the Church in Australia will not be fully the Church that Jesus wants her to be until you have made your contribution to her life and until that contribution has been joyfully received by others.”

These words resonate today and are at the heart of our aspirations. We have begun to make good connections already in our local church, of mutual benefit, in our schools and the work of Centacare, as well as in some parishes.

### **Marriage and Family**

The renewal of the domestic church must be at the heart of renewal of our community of faith. If we could do that, how many withered branches in the Church would begin to bud with life again!

A deeper understanding of Christian marriage, through early catechesis of our young people, as well as enhanced preparation for weddings; and ongoing formation and support for married couples, is needed.

We also need to help families come together for prayer and scriptural reading in the home, and link them to participation in the life of Word, Sacrament and Service of their local parish.

### **Young Catholics**

The years of adolescence and young adulthood are crucial for most people: and set directions for basic life choices. They are also years of great openness to new ideas and possibilities, of great capacity for generosity and adventure. In that way, they are vulnerable to false promises, but hungry for truth.

We fail as disciples of Christ if we ignore them and their needs; and we are diminished as a church without their contribution to our common life.

Our efforts to connect have been bearing fruit: especially as we develop this ministry more and more in collaboration with our schools.

## **Parramatta**

### **DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL**

- Diocesan Pastoral Councils are described as being; “under the authority of the Bishop... to study and weigh those matters which concern the pastoral works in the diocese, and to propose practical conclusions concerning them.” (Can.511).
- In Parramatta Diocese, the Bishop consults with the Diocesan Pastoral Council concerning pastoral realities, directions and possible strategies as well as priorities to support the ongoing formation of the diocese’s people and the diocese’s character.
- The Diocesan Pastoral Council relies on and actively maintains thorough communication with the five Deanery Pastoral Councils. It divides this action among members to enrich the members’ first hand awareness and maximise what is known and heard by the Council.

- The Diocesan Pastoral Council’s process and any recommendations are based on listening, necessary research and faith centred discernment.
- The Council consists of ten to twenty members who together represent good awareness and experience of the Diocese. It includes the Bishop and generally one other clergy, plus other ex-officio appointments or one-off special purpose invitations as required. Members are generally to be separate from the members of the Deanery Pastoral Councils.
- The Diocesan Pastoral Council meets three to four times per year (or more if required) with necessary support resources and a thoughtful process for facilitation prepared in advance. Members pursue necessary actions, consultation and ongoing research between meetings.
- The Bishop is the president of the Diocesan Pastoral Council with a suitably able member formed and appointed as the chair/animator.

- ▶ Vision & Purpose
- ▶ Our Focus
- ▶ Achievements
- ▶ Who are we
- ▶ Links to other councils
- ▶ Nominations

## Sandhurst

### Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council (SMPC)

**A key recommendation of *Go Forth – Review of the strategic, consultative and administrative structures of the Diocese of Sandhurst* (December 2020) was the establishment of a Diocesan Pastoral Council to be named the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council.**

### Members of the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council April 2023 - April 2026

#### An announcement from Bishop Shane Mackinlay

Over the last year, we have been preparing and consulting for the establishment of the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council. This culminated with our diocesan assembly in February 2023, when over 300 people gathered in Shepparton. I am very grateful to all those who participated in this preparation and consultation, those who attended the assembly, and those who generously offered themselves for membership of the Council. There are many signs that God’s spirit continues to be active in our Diocese.

This week, a membership panel participated with me in a process of discernment about the expressions of interest that have been received. In light of that, I now have great pleasure in announcing the membership of the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council for the coming three years.

Joining me and Fr Joe Taylor VG on the Council are:

#### **Goulburn Valley Deanery**

**Mrs Alana Brennan**, St Augustine's Parish, Kyabram

**Mrs Jobelle Collier**, St Brendan's Parish, Shepparton

**Mrs Angela Finn**, St Augustine's Parish, Kyabram

**Reverend Father Jackson Saunders**, St Brendan's Parish, Shepparton and St Mary's Parish, Dookie

#### **North Eastern Deanery**

**Mrs Gabrielle Downie**, St Joseph's Parish, Benalla

**Mr Stephen McKinley**, Sacred Heart Parish, Wodonga

**Mr Michael McLinden**, Sacred Heart Parish, Wodonga

**Reverend Father Vijay Bandanadam ALCP/OSS**, St Joseph's Parish, Benalla

#### **Western Deanery**

**Mr Mick Chalkley**, St Therese's Parish, Kennington

**Mr Miggy Podosky**, St Kilian's Parish, Bendigo

**Mrs Christine Sebire**, St Mary's Parish, Echuca

**Reverend Father Stephen Bolling**, St Liborius Parish, Eaglehawk and St Mary's Parish, Inglewood

#### **Bishop's Appointments**

**Mr Paul Desmond**, Chief Executive Officer, Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd

**Mr Jean-Marie Mupenda**, St Brendan's Parish, Shepparton

The first meeting of the Council will be held in Shepparton on Friday 28 and Saturday 29 April.

#### **More about SMPC**

[Statutes](#)

[Final Report](#)

[Volunteer Position Description for Membership of the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council](#)

[Responsibilities of Volunteer Form](#)

#### **Contact**

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#### **Statutes**

The Statutes for the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council are based on:

[The Code of Canon Law of the Catholic Church](#)

[Go Forth Report](#)

[The Decrees of the 5th Plenary Council of Australia](#)

[The Sandhurst Diocesan Synthesis for the Synod on Synodality](#)

#### **A Year of Preparation and Consultation for the SMPC**

##### **27 April 2022 to 27 April 2023**

27 April 2022 - Year of Preparation and Consultation began

15 February 2023 - Diocesan Assembly, in Shepparton

10 March 2023 - Expressions of interest close

24 March 2023 - Members of the SMPC announced

4 April 2023 - Members of the SMPC commissioned (Christ Mass)

27 April 2023 - First meeting of the SMPC (Feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel)

The Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst has a history of collaborative governance and leadership, including the establishment of a Diocesan Pastoral Council. The shape, form and function of this leadership, including the Council has varied according to the needs of the time. In our current time, the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council is understood as an expression of synodality in the life and mission of the local Church of Sandhurst.

### [Final Report on Preparation and Consultation for SMPC](#)

Themes which emerged from the fifty-two consultation meetings held in churches, halls and schools across the Diocese between July and December 2022 in preparation...

[Read more...](#)

[Diocesan Assembly](#)

A key milestone of our preparation and consultation for the SMPC was the Diocesan Assembly on 15 February 2023.

[Read more...](#)

[Prayer for the SMPC](#)

A prayer for the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council is available for download.

[Read more...](#)

[Preparation & Consultation Roadshow](#)

Since they were commissioned by Bishop Shane in July 2022, Dr Chris Cotter and Ruth Lawlor have facilitated over 48 preparation and consultation meetings.

[Read more...](#)

[About the SMPC](#)

A key recommendation in the 2020 *Go Forth Review of the Diocese* was that Bishop Shane Mackinlay establish a Diocesan Mission and Pastoral Council.

[Read more...](#)

[Preparation and Consultation Plan](#)

A Preparation and Consultation Plan to establish the SMPC is available for download.

[Read more...](#)

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[On release of Interim Report Ruth Lawlor reflects on the consultation phase of SMPC](#)

With the release of Interim Report on the consultation Phase of the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council (SMPC) Ruth Lawlor reflects on her encounters with parishioners...

[Read more...](#)