



Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst

Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council Meeting 6

Saturday 20 April 2024
Parklake Hotel, Shepparton

REPORT ON THE MEETING

Present

Bishop Shane Mackinlay, Very Rev. Joe Taylor VG, Mrs Alana Brennan, Rev. Vijay Bandanadam ALCP/OSS, Rev. Stephen Bolling, Mr Mick Chalkley, Ms Kate Fogarty, Mrs Gabrielle Downie (Chair), Mrs Angela Finn, Mr Michael McLinden, Mr Jean-Marie Mupenda, Mr Miggy Podosky, Mrs Christine Sebire.

Apologies Rev. Jackson Saunders, Mr Stephen McKinley, Mrs Jobelle Collier

Officers Dr Chris Cotter, Executive Officer
Mrs Leslie Cooper, Minute Secretary

Meeting Focus

The Council Chair, Mrs Gabby Downie indicated the focus for this meeting: refinement and completion of the Strategic Plan Directions and Goals by the Strategic Direction Interest Groups and the Council as a whole.

Diocesan Finances

Mr Cameron Fraser, Diocesan Business Manager and Barbara Pilkington-Evans, Diocesan Finance Council Chair presented a paper to the Council on the financial state of the Diocese. Chancery services and resources available to parishes were also outlined.



Strategic Mission and Pastoral Plan discernment

The members spent significant meeting time refining the priorities, directions and goals of the Diocesan strategic plan.

Following this meeting a final draft of the Strategic Mission and Pastoral Plan (Directions and Goals) will be distributed to Council members with a brief discernment activity. The plan will then be presented to Bishop Shane.

Parish Visitation Program – Pilot

A presentation on the forthcoming Parish Visitation Program (PVP) Pilots was delivered by Dr Chris Cotter with an introduction by Bishop Shane. When appointed to the Sandhurst Diocese in late 2019, Bishop Shane prioritised the establishment of two key structures: the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council and an intentional approach to parish visitations. These were endorsed and developed in the *Go Forth* report on the review of the consultative and administrative structures of the Diocese.

Canon Law requires the local bishop to visit every parish in the Diocese once every five years. The PVP provides a more structured approach to parish visitation, allowing parishes to undertake a review of pastoral life, governance, administration, ministries, groups and activities and to present their findings to the bishop. The PVP also encourages parishes to undertake planning for the future and to set goals to guide their endeavours.

Two parish groupings will participate in the Pilots this year. They are: Eaglehawk and Inglewood, and Wangaratta, Wangaratta South and Moyhu. Their experience and feedback will contribute to the refinement of the PVP for a full five-year cycle of visitations by Bishop Shane to commence in 2025.

Update on 150th Anniversary of the Diocese

The video footage taken of the pilgrimage walk from St Kilian's to Sacred Heart Cathedral on Palm Sunday was shared and a brief report given by Dr Chris Cotter.

Sandhurst Youth Ministry

The Sandhurst Youth Ministry Reference Group (SYMRG) met in early February 2024 and brought a recommendation to Meeting 5 of the Council (23-24 February). The Council asked the SYMRG to bring a more detailed proposal to the Council for consideration. The SYMRG proposal is being worked on and will be presented at the next meeting of the Council.

Meeting Dates for 2024

Saturday 20 July

Friday 22 November and Saturday 23 November