

NEWS OF GREAT JOY ...

CHRISTMAS



Reflection and Prayer for 2022 Scripture readings and the
Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council Preparation and Consultation Plan 2022-2023.

SIGN OF THE CROSS.

Come, Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.

Rev. 22:20

FROM THE READINGS _____

First Reading: The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone. You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase ...

For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they give him: Wonder-Counsellor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace.

Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end, for the throne of David and for his royal power, which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity. From this time onwards and for ever, the jealous love of the Lord of Hosts will do this.

Isaiah 9:1-7

Gospel: While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

In the countryside close by there were shepherds who lived in the fields and took it in turns to watch their flocks during the night. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone round them. They were terrified, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David a saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.' And suddenly with the angel there was a great throng of the heavenly host, praising God and singing: 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to those who enjoy his favour.'

Luke 2:6-14

FROM THE SANDHURST MISSION AND PASTORAL COUNCIL PREPARATION AND CONSULTATION PLAN 2022 - 2023

Who can be a member of the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council? The Code of Canon Law (CIC) of the Catholic Church makes the following statements relating to membership: 512 §1. A pastoral council consists of members of the Christian faithful who are in full communion with the Catholic Church — clerics, members of institutes of consecrated life, and especially laity — who are designated in a manner determined by the diocesan bishop. §2. The Christian faithful who are designated to

a pastoral council are to be selected in such a way that they truly reflect the entire portion of the people of God which constitutes the Diocese, with consideration given to the different areas of the Diocese, social conditions and professions, and the role which they have in the apostolate whether individually or joined with others. Members are to devote adequate time to prayerful study of council materials and agenda items. They are to enhance discussion through future-oriented thinking, balanced assessment, and a constructive attitude. Council members consult periodically with a diverse spectrum of the diocesan community as feasible to learn concerns and possible solutions appropriate to the local Church and region. It is important to note that whilst the members of the SMPC should reflect the diversity of “the entire portion of the people of God which constitutes the Diocese”, each member of the SMPC is a representative of the Diocese and not of the parish, deanery, region, or organisation from which they come. Their advice and discernment must be for the entire people of God.

SMPC, page 15.

How will the SMPC be constituted and function? It is proposed that the SMPC will comprise 16 members: the Bishop, the Vicar-General, three lay members and one priest from each of the three deaneries, and up to two members selected by the Bishop, all (excluding the Bishop and Vicar-General) appointed for a term of three years. Usually, The SMPC will meet four times per year. One meeting per year will include significant time allocated to formation of members. Some meetings may be held online. To facilitate continuity, approximately half of the initial SMPC members continue for a second term. Statutes for the SMPC will be developed and then promulgated by the Bishop. The Statutes will be informed by The Code of Canon Law, The Light from the Southern Cross Report, the Go Forth Report, the outcomes of the Plenary Council, and feedback from the preparation and consultation meetings. An executive will be constituted to carry forward the business of the SMPC between meetings comprising the Bishop, Chairperson, and Director of Mission and Pastoral Life who is to be the Executive Officer. On 15 February 2023 the Bishop will call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) from the Christian faithful of the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst who meet the membership requirements described in CIC 512 and criteria aligned with the stated purpose of the SMPC.

SMPC, page 15.

Prayer and Reflection as We Journey Into Another Year, 2023

- **Read** the scripture passages and paragraphs from the SMPC Preparation and Consultation Plan, aloud or silently.
- **Reflect and pray**, considering
 - o What stands out for you?
 - o Any insights from the passages that shine additional light on these words.
 - o Ways in which your insights may relate to a) your parish b) our Diocese?
- **Express a hope for the future.**



PRAYER

FOR THE SANDHURST MISSION AND PASTORAL COUNCIL

We turn to Mary,

our Mother of Good Counsel
and patroness of our Diocese,
as we seek to become a more missionary and pastoral Church:
people of faith, hope and love for our world.

May we be led

by the same wisdom and courage sent by the Holy Spirit
to guide her along unfamiliar paths
and through challenging decisions.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us. Amen.

Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council (SMPC) Preparation and Consultation Plan, page 6.



Prepared for Advent Year A 2022. Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst, PO Box 201 Bendigo, Vic, 3552 Email: adultfaith@sandhurst.catholic.org.au **Acknowledgements:** Go to: www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au/ Click on banner 'A Year of Preparation and Consultation for a Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council', scroll down for prayer card and 'Preparation and Consultation Plan'. For SMPC updates and more diocesan news register to receive the Sandhurst eNews: www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au OR access digital code.

