



Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst

Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council Meeting 3

Friday 25 August 6:00pm-9.00pm; Saturday 27 August 2023

St. Brendan's Pastoral Centre, Shepparton

REPORT ON THE MEETING

Present

Bishop Shane Mackinlay, Rev. Stephen Bolling, Mrs Alana Brennan (via Zoom Saturday 27th only), Mr Mick Chalkley, Mr Paul Desmond, Mrs Gabrielle Downie, Mrs Angela Finn (via Zoom Saturday 27th only), Mr Stephen McKinley, Mr Michael McLinden (Saturday 27th only), Mr Jean-Marie Mupenda, Mr Miggy Podosky, Rev. Jackson Saunders, Mrs Christine Sebire.

Apologies

Very Rev Joe Taylor VG

Rev Vijay Bandanadam ALCP/OSS

Mrs Jobelle Collier

Friday evening: Mrs Alana Brennan, Mrs Angela Finn, Mr Michael McLinden

Officers

Dr Chris Cotter, Executive Officer

Mr Tim Nolan, Minute Secretary

Meeting Focus

The Council Chair, Mrs Gabby Downie, outlined the major focus for the meeting: working on the Strategic Directions for the Diocese and formation for Council members to address the purpose of the Council.



Formation Activity

Dr Chris Cotter led a formation activity inviting Council members to reflect on their own personal vocational story and larger the story and purpose of the Council in the life of the Church in Sandhurst. In future meetings the Members of the Council will continue to reflect on their responses to the question: "What is the Holy Spirit asking of the SMPC at this time of the life of the Church in Sandhurst?"

Updates from Diocesan Finance Council and the College of Consultors

Mr Mick Chalkley advised that the first meeting of the Diocesan Finance Council following his appointment will occur on 14 September 2023. The Diocesan Business Manager, Mr Cameron Fraser, will attend a future meeting of the Council to provide a report on the financial situation of the Diocese and to discuss how the Council might contribute to the preparation of the Diocesan budget each year.

Mrs Christine Sebire spoke to her first attendance at the Consultors meeting, identifying the sense of privilege she felt as a female attending a meeting of a group consisting of priests. She identified a feeling of humility shared by herself and Mr Brendan Lindsay, the other lay attendee, but that they had both felt welcomed, valued and included in the conversation. The Consultors Digest, published after each meeting of the Consultors, will be included in the papers of future SMPC meetings.

Strategic Directions 'Interest Groups'

The meeting turned to the work of the three Strategic Directions Interest groups. The Strategic Directions are based on the *Final Report of the Preparation and Consultation for the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council* and informed by the *Concrete Proposals for the Council from the Diocesan Assembly (15 February 2023)*.

The Strategic Directions:

- 1. Missionary and pastoral outreach** to families, young people, marginalised groups and those who are baptised but are no longer active in parish life.
- 2. Promote the equal dignity of women and men** enhancing the role of women in the Church in Sandhurst; and to overcoming assumptions, culture, practices and language that lead to inequality.
- 3. Strengthening connections** between parishes and schools, parishes and Chancery, between parishes, Chancery and Catholic Education Sandhurst, and other Catholic entities in the Diocese.
- 4. Promote initial and ongoing formation of the faithful** in missionary discipleship, missionary and pastoral outreach, theology and liturgy, ministry, listening, dialogue and discernment.



All groups are incorporating *Strategic Direction 2 "Promote the Equal dignity of women and men"* within their focus area.

The three Strategic Direction Interest Groups reconvened and provided a report to the whole Council on the kinds of activities that could operationalise each Strategic Direction.

Steps toward a Strategic Plan

Mrs Gabby Downie led a discussion on the Council's role in setting a strategic framework for the whole diocese. In order to do that, a clear process can be followed:

1. Study what is happening presently, consider what is being practised right now.
2. Further analysis is done to see what is effective within the current practise, asking: What is happening? What is working well? How do we know it is? Is it of value?
3. Once this analysis is completed, then some goals are established and the steps to achieve that goal are developed.
4. The steps are then executed, and data is collected along the way.
5. Return to 1 and review the data, asking the question 'how are we going in relation to the goal we have set and how do we know?', followed by 2, 3 and 4.

Following discussion, the Strategic Interest Groups worked on point 2 above, 'further analysis' of what is currently happening in the diocese.

After providing a brief progress report, each Strategic Direction Interest Groups committed to meeting twice before the next Council meeting in November in order to continue their study and analysis of what is currently happening in the diocese.

Celebrating the Sesquicentenary of the Diocese of Sandhurst.

The Council discussed ways to recognise and celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Sandhurst (30 March 2024). This will also be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of the Council of Priests and then a working group will be formed.

Communication as an enabler for the Council

Katrina Strong (Sandhurst Communications Coordinator) will be interviewing members of the Council and publishing a profile of the whole SMPC membership through the Sandpiper e-News and via social media.

Next Meeting

Friday 17 November – Saturday 18 November