



Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst

Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council Meeting 5

Friday 23th February 6.30pm-8:30pm; Saturday 24th February

St Brendan's Parish Pastoral Centre, Shepparton

REPORT ON THE MEETING

Present

Bishop Shane Mackinlay, Mrs Alana Brennan, Mr Mick Chalkley, Mrs Jobelle Collier, Mrs Gabrielle Downie (Chair), Mrs Angela Finn, Ms Kate Fogarty, Mr Stephen McKinley, Mr Michael McLinden, Mr Miggy Podosky, Rev Jackson Saunders, Mrs Christine Sebire.

Apologies

Rev Vijay Bandanadam ALCP/OSS, Rev Stephen Bolling, Mr Jean-Marie Mupenda, Very Rev Joe Taylor VG

Officers

Dr Chris Cotter, Executive Officer
Mr Tim Nolan, Minute Secretary
Mrs Leslie Cooper, Project Support Officer

Acknowledgement

Mrs Gabby Downie welcomed the members of the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council, acknowledging that it was the first meeting for the year. She congratulated Ms Jobelle Collier on the recent birth of her son, Isaiah and welcomed Ms Kate Fogarty, Executive Director CES Ltd.



Meeting Focus

The Council Chair, Mrs Gabby Downie indicated that there were two major items for this meeting of the Council:

1. Formation and Participation in the Diocesan Consultation on the Synthesis from First Assembly of the Synod for a Synodal Church: “How can we be a Synodal Church in Mission?”
2. Ongoing development of the Strategic Plan by the Strategic Direction Interest Groups and the Council as a whole.

Formation – Reflection and Consultation: Synod for a Synodal Church

Dr Chris Cotter ran a Reflection and Consultation on the recent Synod for a Synodal Church based on the Reflection Guide “How can we be a Synodal Church in Mission?” This guide is being used at Diocesan level to produce reflections and recommendations that will contribute to a Diocesan synthesis and then be incorporated into a national synthesis document, which will be forwarded to Rome for discussion at the Second General Assembly in October of this year. The key question “How can we be a Synodal Church in Mission?” has been asked across the world and emerged from the First General Assembly and its Synthesis.

Bishop Shane Mackinlay spoke briefly confirming the value of the Consultation process, as it allows for groups to highlight issues and ideas they would like brought to the Second Assembly- things that should be tried out, proposed; that participants should be informed of, what is landing well or badly and if there are suggestions – what might be needed to be done to achieve an aim? What is getting in the way?

Role of the SMPC and Strategic Planning

The members spent time considering the SMPC Statutes 1 and 2 in relation to the role of the Council in general and Strategic Planning in particular.

The Council was presented with a recount of the recent steps on the Synodal journey for the Diocese:

- 1) An original, divine commission: “Go and make disciples of all nations!” (Matthew 28:19) from God, through Jesus- we are all called to go forth and evangelise.
- 2) The *Go Forth* Report, commissioned by Bishop Shane and written in 2020. A key recommendation was the establishment of the SMPC and the position of Director of Mission and Pastoral Life. The Process of preparation for the Council commenced- 52 meetings with parishes were held around the Diocese, with these consultations leading to the *Final Report*, published in January 2023.
- 3) The *Final Report* identified Four Strategic Directions from the Diocesan consultation.
- 4) The Diocesan Assembly was held on 15 February 2023. The *Final Report* and Strategic Directions were affirmed. The question was asked of those who attended: what concrete proposals do you have for the Council? Postcard responses were made and submitted.
- 5) The Council was appointed following expressions of interest process, and its members were commissioned at the Chrism Mass (4 April 2023).



- 6) At SMPC Meeting 2 (June 2023) concrete proposals from the Assembly were mapped against the Strategic Directions.
- 7) A process of prioritising directions and setting Mission and Pastoral Goals was undertaken. Work commenced on creating the Strategic Plan and this is where the SMPC currently are.

The consensus that emerged was that the SMPC should be proposing the Priorities and Goals of the Strategic Plan to the Bishop and then monitoring and reviewing the actions and results as the Plan is implemented.

Mrs Gabby Downie advised the Council that the Priorities and Goals of the emerging Strategic Plan need to be refined clarified and this task would be the major focus for the remainder of the meeting.

Update on 150th Anniversary of the Diocese

Dr Chris Cotter provided an update on the work of the working group organising the celebrations for the 150th Anniversary of the establishment of the Sandhurst Diocese, which has been meeting monthly.

Diocesan Finance Council

Mr Mick Chalkley updated the Council on the most recent meeting of the Diocesan Finance Council in early December.

College of Consultors

Council members were directed to read the Digest of the most recent College of Consultors meeting.

Microsoft Teams Training

Members are invited to contact the Chancery for further training in Microsoft Teams if they require it.

Sandhurst Youth Ministry

The Sandhurst Youth Ministry Reference Group (SYMRG) met in February 2024 and brought a recommendation to the SMPC, proposing a new approach to Youth Ministry via a partnership between the Council of Priests, Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd and the Diocesan Office of Mission and Pastoral Life. In response, the Council have asked the SYMRG to bring a more detailed proposal to the Council for consideration.

Meeting Dates for 2024

Saturday 20 April

Saturday 20 July

Friday 22 November and Saturday 23 November