



Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst

Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council Meeting 7

Saturday, 20 July 2024

8:30 am – 3:00pm

Mons Jeffrey Pastoral Centre, St. Brendan's Parish Shepparton

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

Officers: Dr Chris Cotter, Executive Officer
Mrs Leslie Cooper, Minutes Secretary
Mr Mason Crosier, Volunteer

REPORT ON THE MEETING

Change of Chairperson

In June Mrs Gabrielle Downie announced that she would step down as both Chair and as a member of the Sandhurst Mission and Pastoral Council.

After a process of reflection on the attributes of the Chair and prayerful discernment, members of the Council made recommendations to Bishop Shane for the role. Following lunch, Bishop Shane announced that he had appointed Mr Mick Chalkley as Chair of the Council for the next twelve months.

Bishop Shane expressed his gratitude to Mrs Gabrielle Downie for her leadership and to each member of the Council for being part of the discernment process. He also welcomed Mr Mick Chalkley as new Chair. With Gabby stepping off the Council, Bishop Shane announced that the process has begun to appoint a new member for the Northeast Deanery according to the [Council Statutes](#).

Strategic Mission and Pastoral Goals

The Strategic Mission and Pastoral Goals were tabled. The Goals are the fruit of a year-long listening, dialogue and discernment by the Council. The Goals will guide and support parishes and other Diocesan entities in their initiatives and activities. Once the graphic design is finalised, the Goals will be made public and formally launched.

Synod Synthesis: Diocesan Consultation Summary Report

The [Summary Report](#) was tabled at the meeting. It describes the process of consultation in the Diocese in response to the Synthesis from the First Assembly of the Synod and summarises the themes that emerged from the consultation.

Report on Evangelise Summit

Dr Chris Cotter and Mrs Leslie Cooper shared their key experiences of the [Summit](#). The Australian Catholic Bishop's Statement [Evangelisation](#) was shared with the group. This statement is a theological and scriptural reflection on Evangelisation as Encounter, Discipleship and Mission.

Information and Discussion: Year of Jubilee 2025 "Pilgrims of Hope"

Pope Francis has called 2025 a Jubilee of the Universal Church with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope". Bishop Shane provided background on the [tradition of Jubilee](#), with the present day celebration of Jubilee having origins in the "sabbatical year" of the Old Testament. The Cathedral will be automatically designated as a place of pilgrimage in our Diocese, but other places can be designated. Initial suggestions for celebrating the Jubilee were shared.

SMPC Meeting Protocols

After fifteen months in operation, the SMPC Meeting Protocols were reviewed. The members recommended allowing time for formation within each meeting and brief online check-ins between formal face-to-face meetings to facilitate focus and connection. The importance of properly inducting new members to the Council was also emphasised.

Sandhurst Youth Ministry Proposal

The Sandhurst Youth Ministry Partnership Proposal was presented, which was developed through the [Sandhurst Youth Ministry Reference Group](#). The Proposal recommends that Youth Ministry in the Diocese is exercised as partnership between the Chancery, parishes and priests and Catholic Education Sandhurst Ltd (Catholic Education Office and schools). The Proposal clearly identifies the purpose and goals of Youth Ministry in the Diocese, as well as the key stakeholders and the activities and responsibilities of each of the partners. It also recommends that paid Youth Ministry positions are developed and advertised. The proposal was reviewed by the Council and some minor changes were suggested and incorporated into the final document.