

**DIOCESE OF PORT PIRIE**  
**DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING: Session B REGIONS & PARISHES**  
**Held in the Chancery, Port Pirie on Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2016.**  
**MINUTES**

1. **Present:** Bishop Greg O’Kelly SJ, Sr Sonia Wagner, Julie Andriessen, Michael Turner, Mona Raatz, Fr Steve Ardill, Fr Paul Crotty, Brenda Keenan, Fr Jimmy Pantin, Fr Leon Quinn, Claire Conaghty, Gay Rowe, Deacon Gary Stokes, Joseph Johns, Imelda Coverdale.  
**Minutes Secretary:** Julie Andriessen
2. **Apologies:** Fr Paul Bourke, Kevin Freeman, Sr Kerry Keenan RSJ, Naomi Maloney, Gayle Santic, Fr Jim Monaghan, Colleen Andrew
3. **Meeting opened** with reflective prayer: Remembering Genevieve Richter  
The Beatitudes and the New Beatitudes
4. **Business Arising from Minutes of the DPC Meeting Session A 30<sup>th</sup> April 2016**
  - (a) Tree Planting – Variety of trees planted and blessed as memorial for Year of Mercy. Bishop Greg pleased with success of this endeavour throughout the diocese.
  - (b) Succession Planning:
    - Bishop’s Assistant for Pastoral Ministry – Sr Sonia retires in January 2017. Joseph Johns, who is a candidate for the Permanent Diaconate, will take on this position
    - Sr Marie O’Shea SGS – will join the Port Pirie Good Samaritan community in 2017 after 10 years in Kiribati and study in Spiritual Direction.
    - Youth Ministry – Sr Elizabeth taking final vows and moving to Melbourne in December 2016. Need for replacement. Problem is cost. Various options being explored.
    - Aboriginal Ministry – Sr Anne Foale , Aaron Stewart and the Sisters of St Anne have been working in this area. Sr Anne leaves the diocese at the end of 2016. Need for pastoral care, Women’s shelter and conducting Women’s groups in Ceduna. Sisters of St Anne have indicated their willingness to work in Ceduna as well.
  - (c) *Care for our Common Home* to be added to our Diocesan Pastoral Plan 2014 – 2017 as Strategic Direction No 8. This was suggested and agreed to in principle at the April DPC and also by the August/September RPC Meetings. During 2017 there will be opportunity to re-visit Strategic Directions Nos 1-7 and develop No 8 for our context and time.
  - (c) **Kiribati commitment** – Brenda Keenan shared the background to the Kiribati Commitment and gave a report on the July 2016 visit to Kiribati by herself, Fr Brian Mathews and 12 teachers from schools of the diocese. Brenda spoke of the amazing two-way impact that the visit has had for the teachers, for their students and school communities and for the young I Kiribati sisters of the Good Samaritan in Kiribati.
  - (d) **Video: “ Pope Francis: A Message from the Heart “** It was decided that a copy of this powerful and moving invitation from the Pope to be Missionaries of Mercy in our own locations will be sent to each parish of the diocese as a good resource for the closure of the Year of Mercy.
  - (e) **Missionaries of Mercy: Sharing of Responses to 3 questions posed by the Council of Priests and addressed at August/September RPC meetings:**
    - a) **Aspects that radiate the beating heart of the Gospel**
      - Invitation to faith – Messy church, Alpha
      - Social service eg Fred’s van. Good Sam Inn , Care and Concern
      - Sense of community support available especially in small communities
      - Welcoming different nationalities
      - New parish centre at Port Pirie
      - IT equipment (CISCO) purchased by the CEO and generously shared with parishes in our diocese. It is presently possible for Port Lincoln, Whyalla, Roxby Downs and Berri to access this

equipment and link with each other and with Adelaide CEO and ACU. There is enormous potential to overcome the tyranny of distance via this avenue.

- Different ways communities embraced the Year of Mercy activities
- Diocesan approach to Child Protection - Bishop Greg endorsed this as a strength and gave credit to Fr Jim Monaghan, Fr Paul Crotty and Deacon Gary Stokes.
- Recognition of being a Catholic in the community
- Welcoming priests from other countries
- Prayer for vocations
- Prison ministry (Fr Khalid did 1100 hours of chaplaincy alone. 24 people involved in letter writing to prisoners)

**b) Areas we value but struggle to maintain**

- Volunteer fatigue and ageing eg not able to find a new diocesan director for St Vincent de Paul
- Engagement of young people and families
- Weekly mass attendance and non-attendance of Catholics
- People lack confidence to talk about their faith. Parents find it difficult to talk to their children about their faith

As an institutional church we are perceived to be in damage control, to be under siege

- The reputation, the public face of the church promoted by the media is hurting.
  - o Need to keep focussing on our faith in new and hope-filled ways
  - o There is still a core of dedicated people but where is the critical mass?
  - o Ageing priests keep Mass going but not enough energy to do "extras".
  - o Urgent need for formation of the laity for leadership in various areas of pastoral ministry
  - o Difficult to get message out because of media
  - o
- c) Council members divided into groups to discuss initiatives that could be taken together as a diocese to vitalise parish, school or ministry. Initiatives to be at grass roots level, doable, and to cost little or no money.

**Ideas: Hospitality and Welcome**

- Parish centre – parish projects and programs
- Meals, morning tea. Suggested a meal for people on periphery at priest's table with parishioners serving.
- Welcoming/ushers

**Sharing Our Faith Story**

- Give people confidence to talk about their faith e.g. One minute faith testimonies
- Scripture Classes

**Call To Ministry**

- Encouragement of lay and young to use their gifts and talents in service of the community
- Stewardship program – a call to ministry and not just finance
- Involvement of youth in ministries

**Pastoral Outreach to Youth and Others**

- Corporal Works of mercy – involve youth in community and in school activities
- Pastoral letter to school leavers – Bishop, priest
- Invitation to parents of newly baptised to a special liturgy with morning tea and a talk by a parishioner regarding sharing the catholic faith with children

After discussion it was decided to focus on the **One minute faith testimonies** as a diocesan initiative.

ACTION: Joseph Johns (co-ordinator), Mona Raatz and Fr Jimmy to form task group.

**9 A) To Care for Our Common Home – Strategic Direction No 8 to be added to Pastoral Plan**

- I. Need to develop this new Strategic Direction in line with Strategic Directions 1-7. Pope Francis Ten Commandments on Climate Change distributed with article "A New Work of Mercy" in which Pope Francis promotes To Care for Our Common Home as both a Spiritual and a Corporal Work of Mercy.

- II. Discussion identified possible aspects to be considered – renewable energy, solar panels on buildings, pollution, shared responsibility, believe one can make a difference, use only the resources required eg turn off taps (judicious use of water), buy and prepare only food required.
- III. Possible heading for SD8 – To encourage and promote opportunities to better human life and everything it embraces (quote from Pope Francis)
- IV. **Outcome:-**
  - **Need for a story to be written and illustrated** for children and all ages encompassing all the 10 commandments identified by Pope Francis. The story should be contextualised for our Diocese at this time and be written with an appropriate theological understanding.

**ACTION:**

- o Fr Steve Ardill will approach Aileen Breuker in Pt Lincoln with a view to inviting her to take on role of co-ordinator of the writing of the booklet.
  - o Parishes to approach people with story writing or illustration skills to determine their interest in assisting.
  - o Material to be sent to RPCs and Parish Councils to assist in the development of Strategic Plan No 8 – these to be discussed at RPC , then brought to DPC.
  - o Include key words: respect, reverence, sacred in whatever is written
  - o Booklet Writing Project description to be formulated by Sr Sonia and Joseph Johns.

**(f) B) Bishop’s Forum**

- I. Bishop Greg expressed his wish that an item BISHOP’S FORUM be added to each meeting of the RPCs and DPC as a means of obtaining feedback from across the diocese about significant issues, to circulate information and offer opportunity for matters to be raised directly with the Bishop.
- II. **Bishop’s Pastoral letters** - Bishop Greg asked:
  - a. How are letters distributed? Is it efficient?
  - b. What other topics could be addressed?
  - c. Is there a better way of circulation?
  - d. Are people willing to receive bulletins and pastoral letters by email?

Following discussion these points were made:

- e. People can send an email to Maryanne requesting to receive the Bishop’s circulars by email
  - f. Parish bulletins can be placed on the diocesan website by contacting Bernadette Wauchope at the Chancery
  - g. Suggested subject matter for the Bishop’s letter can be a feature at Parish Councils.
- III. **Prison Ministry:** Question raised: How will the Diocese manage to expand prison ministry taking into account the intended expansion of the Pt Augusta gaol?
    - a. Fr Khalid spends 4 days/week and travels between Cadell, Pt Augusta and Pt Lincoln prisons. Supported by Fr Paul Bourke at Cadell, Peter Ryan at Pt Lincoln, Fr Paul Crotty, Sr Elizabeth and the Sisters of St Anne at Pt Augusta
    - b. Need for post-release support – Fr Khalid setting up a “think tank” and volunteers will be recruited.
    - c. Christmas and Easter gatherings – parishioners are invited to attend.
    - d. **ACTION:** Need to investigate the availability of training courses available for prison chaplaincy. **Who will do this??**

**(g) Diocesan Assembly – 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017 – Building Bridges of Peace**

- 2017 is the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation . Theme will be Reconciliation and building bridges of peace. Geraldine Hawkes from the SA Council of Churches has been invited to give an introduction and overview of the various initiatives that are taking place to build bridges of peace.
- A panel of pastors from Lutheran, Baptist, Uniting, Anglican and New Life churches will be invited to speak.
- Three people from different denominations will be invited to address an issue of peacemaking from a scriptural starting point.

- Through Ministers' Associations throughout the diocese, and through parishes, people from other churches will be invited to attend the 2017 Assembly.
  - The tables for discussion will be of mixed denominations.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> day – 8.00am Mass followed by ecumenical theme. The 2<sup>nd</sup> day will focus on Strategic Direction No 8 plus the Chrism Mass.
- (h) **NET team** – visited Pt Lincoln and were involved in liturgy workshops, retreat and supported youth at a Youth Mass. Fr Steve Ardill asked if the team could be invited to the diocese to offer their services for a couple of months.
- (i) **RPC** – Bernie Meixner and Kate Benjamin (both APRIM's) attend the Western regional Council and are valuable contributors. Could an APRIM or other teacher from each region be invited to attend the DPC meetings? Would need to be invitational and 1 only from each region.
- (j) **Youth Ministry** – Sr Elizabeth Young is leaving.
- advertise the position
  - explore a partnership between CEO and parish.
  - Missionaries of God's Love could be interested to provide a co-ordinator
  - This is a project that needs to be investigated.
  - Finance is an issue.
  - Youth Events coming up:
    - Australian Catholic Youth Festival in Melbourne 2017
    - 2018 Year of the Youth
    - 2019 World Youth Day
- (k) **Evangelising** is called for at key life moments such as deaths, marriages, Sacraments. There is often the need to "tap" somebody on the shoulder.
- (l) **Resources:**  
**Vocations** – Fr Paul Crotty displayed a copy of "Priests in Australia. Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow 2016" which includes an article about Fr Steve Ardill. Diocese will buy a copy for each priest.  
**Social Justice in an Ageing Society** document "A Place at the Table" Recommended for reading and study.
- (m) **Next meeting of Session B Regions and Parishes: Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017** - consider use of AV facilities eg CISCO  
**Next Meeting of Session A Agencies and Leaders: Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2017**  
 Suggestion that meeting commence with Mass: to be considered.
- (n) **Meeting closed** with the prayer for the Closing of the Holy Door for Year of Mercy. Sincere gratitude was expressed to Sr Sonia for her work in the Diocese. Bishop Greg prayed a blessing for all Council members.