

Diocesan Pastoral Council Report

By Br Patrick Cronin cfc

The meeting of 11th November 2017 opened with a prayer, foreshadowing a break at 11.00am for the Remembrance Day Prayer.

1. There were 24 attending with apologies from four people. The welcome was expressed by Br Patrick and by the Bishop.

2. Minutes of the last meeting of 12th November 2016 were passed and that enabled the meeting to get in with the agenda.

3. The first item to introduce myself: that is for seven areas as part of Pastoral Ministry:

- a. chair of Diocesan Pastoral Council and attend Regional Pastoral Councils;
- b. Chair of Assembly Committee
- c. Editor of *Witness*;
- d. representative of the Bishop at inter-faith meetings both local, and with the Uniting Church/Catholic Church Dialogue;
- e. representative of the Bishop at SA Council of Churches;
- f. Diocesan Co-ordinator for RCIA
- g. representative of the Bishop for Catholic Mission;
- h. Formation of Pastoral Associates
- i. and at the Bishop's request e.g. attending the O/S priests seminar, and liaising with Adelaide for the Director of CEO

5. Then we heard from Fr Jim Monaghan from the Council of Priests, looking at succession planning. Fr Jim's paper was seen as a good foundation for leadership in the Diocese.

At 11.00am we stopped for the Remembrance Say a minutes silence and a prayer.

After Morning tea (thank you to the parish ladies group) we discussed the Diocesan Assembly as we have a theme of "*Looking forward in hope*".

6. We have a speaker: Fr Noel Connolly SSC as part of the Facilitation Team of the ACBC (Bishops' of Australia)

- We have a Facilitator: Lana Turvey-Collins: Co-ordinator of the 2020 Plenary Council
- We have an MC: Lee Abela (local, who know our Diocese)
- We have sub-themes:
- Looking forward in hope ...for youth
- Looking forward in hope ...for family
- Looking forward in hope ...for ecumenism
- Looking forward in hope ...as a rural diocese
- Looking forward in hope ...for marginalized people
- Looking forward in hope ...for all creation

We looked at:

- comments about the “Running Sheet”
- comments about the “poster” going out to schools and parishes
- Do we have a logo for the Assembly?
- What social media should we use?
- How do we encourage people to “speak boldly”?
- How do we encourage people to “listen humbly”?
- How do we encourage a “prayerful open heart”?
- How do we plan to “listen to the Holy Spirit”?
- Should we conduct a survey before the Assembly?
- What mechanism is in place to respond to the first session of the Council?
- What mechanism is in place to respond to the second session of the Council?

7. Bishop Greg O’Kelly then led us in discussion about Sacrament of Penance and Rite of Reconciliation, the day 25th September 2017, for Principals and APRIMs (RECs) for follow-up of the day. This is contained in this *Witness*.

8. Then we had the Agency Reports:

- Yourtown report by John Waters
- Catholic Education report by Brenda Keenan
- Centacare report by Jen Cleary
- CWL report by Anne Redden
- Youth report by Fr Harold Camonias
- St Vincent de Paul report by Keith Colyer
- Knights of the Southern Cross report by Frank Camporeale
- Vicar for Religious report by Sr Kerry Keenan
- Prison Ministry report by Fr Khalid Marogi
- Child Protection Council report by Fr Paul Crotty

9. We discussed plans for *Witness* 2018

10. We then discussed the RCIA report as we have started on Port Pirie Parish and have had three sessions so far to train Leaders with two leaders each for the four Periods of RCIA: Inquiry, Catechumenate, Lent, Mystagogy

11. We gave notice for Regional Councils to discuss Strategic Direction 2: Family Life and Relationships by Review and develop ministries of welcome to foster a sense of belonging to the parish community:

- a) Acknowledge sacramental preparation and entrance to catholic schooling as key moments for faith formation
- b) Develop a better appreciation of contemporary families and their place in the Catholic community
- c) Review parish activities and facilities to ensure access to all
- d) Collaborate with Catholic agencies that focus on supporting families in their work in assisting families to function more effectively

12. We finished with a prayer on time!