

**TOWARDS A PASTORAL PLAN
DIOCESE OF PORT PIRIE**

February 2013 – November 2014

Key moments in the development of our Diocesan Pastoral Plan

February 2013: A Strategic Directions Statement (of Seven Directions) was developed from the pre-existing Pastoral Goals of the diocese (2000 – 2010).

February 2013: Four pastoral **Regions (Cathedral, Northern, Riverland, Western)** were established and a **Regional Pastoral Council** meets in each region. The Seven Strategic Directions have been considered at four RPC meetings since then – twice a year in each region in 2013 and 2014.

Bishop Greg presented a **video message** of welcome and orientation for the initial RPC meetings in February 2013.

At the first meeting of each of the **Regional Pastoral Councils**, Strategic Direction 5 (Young People) and 6 (Faith Development) were voted most in need of animation. Those two Directions then became the focus for our meetings and activity during 2013. Ideas have been shared and many initiatives have been undertaken to implement one or other of the Strategic Directions as a result of these RPC connections.

An Adult Faith Formation Group was formed (September 2011) which in time took up the changed title and focus of **Baptismal Ministry Task Group** (beginning of 2012). This group has been significant in developing our understanding of Baptismal Ministry and in the attention paid to Strategic Direction 6 – Faith Development. Suggestions were shared about appropriate people, resources and opportunities that might assist us in developing our theological understandings and in the implementation of Strategic Direction 6 – e.g. Speakers, Retreats, Prayer days, Readings, courses and resources.

The work of Sr Elizabeth Young RSM – Coordinator of **Youth and Young Adult Ministry** – and her team, has been outstanding in the developments of networks and opportunities around Strategic Direction 5 – Young People.

19 & 20 March 2013: Reflection and discussion at **Diocesan Assembly**: “*Advancing in Wisdom in Age and in Grace*” Luke: 2:52 (Strategic Direction 6 – Faith Development)

11 May 2013: Newly configured **Diocesan Pastoral Council** met for the first time. There have been four meetings of this DPC – two in 2013 and two in 2014. The Diocesan Pastoral Plan has been a regular item on the agenda.

5 and 26 September 2013: Bishop Greg met with **Strategic Directions Group** (sub set of DPC) – Brian Fogarty, Brenda Keenan, Fr Brian Mathews, Fr Jim Monaghan, Michael Preece, Genevieve Richter, Sr Sonia Wagner. **Key Areas of Ministry** were identified.

At this stage it became clear that the Statement of Strategic Directions should be developed into a **Diocesan Pastoral Plan** and that consultation and communal discernment should proceed.

5 November 2013: A meeting of Bishop Greg with the four Vicars and a priest from each vicariate.

8 and 9 April 2014: Diocesan Assembly - *The Church- A Home for All- Welcoming, Healing, Reconciling and Advocating* – had a focus on Strategic Direction 4 Reconciliation and Justice.

The **Four-fold premise** of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan was named:

- No parish can stand alone
- There is no 'one size fits all'
- Action builds on the good already happening
- We are not constrained by past structures

27 May 2014: First meeting of the **Diocesan Liturgy Network** – taking up issues regarding Strategic Direction 1 - Eucharist. Other Networks will be formed as the need and opportunity arises

June 12 – 13, 2014: Leadership Conference: *Leadership and Community in a Missionary Key (Strategic Direction 3 and the message of Pope Francis)* The Conference members were consulted about a Draft of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

15 August 2014: Proclamation of Our Lady of the River Catholic Parish in the Riverland – bringing five formerly separate parishes into a single parish.

Bishop Greg has consulted the **Assembly of Priests** on several occasions.

The **Strategic Directions Group** has met at regular intervals.

Over the past two years there have been countless **informal discussions** about pastoral directions at gatherings in parishes and homes throughout the diocese.

27 October 2014: The Diocesan Pastoral Plan, To be His Hands and Voice, A video link in which Bishop Greg speaks about the Vision of the Pastoral Plan, a transcript of the video, Background Information document, Prayers of Intercession, Litany of Saints of the Diocese and a booklet of Saints of the diocese sent to all parishes, Pastoral Associates, Religious Sisters, schools, APRIMs, RECs, agencies, DPC and RPC members for distribution and launching in every local area.

1 and 2 November 2014: Launch of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan throughout the diocese, as close as possible to these two great feasts of the Church – All Saints and All Souls.