

## **Bishop's Leadership Forum**

### **Session 6 – Diocesan Future Priorities and Action Plans**

***As a missionary diocese – articulating our call, focusing on Jesus and the Gospel, being relevant to 2013, being sustainable and demonstrating God's love (Vision)***

During this session participants were invited to join groups to outline the measurable next step actions that should occur in 2013/14. These identified priorities were placed under the three priorities that were articulated by Bishop Bill in Session 1 in order to achieve a shared and unified sense of future direction.

#### 3 areas of priority:

1. How will parishes be the centre of the mission and life of the diocese?
2. How will we best utilise our clergy in parish leadership?
3. How will we have good linkages between our schools, CatholicCare, CDF and our Eucharistic communities?

The participants were given four votes to be cast over the 14 priority areas. The numbers of votes are shown in the table. The following four received the greater proportion of votes:

1. Focus on Parishes as Eucharistic Communities (welcoming & inclusive) (incl transitional school students) - (parish as nexus)
2. Develop a culture of collaboration between parishes, chancery, schools CDF and CatholicCare et al (critical for sustainability)
3. Develop innovative models of ministry and parish leadership (incl teams, support etc)
4. Significantly improve both internal and external communications (i.e. linkages & good news)

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Priority	Vote	Leader	Action
<p><b><u>Parishes as Centres of the Mission &amp; Life of the Diocese</u></b>            1.Focus on Parishes as Eucharistic Communities (welcoming &amp; inclusive) (incl transitional school students) - (parish as nexus)</p>	27	Chris Quinn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide information in 'Mission to all' building mission (use Gospel stories [homilies etc] to facilitate 'see, judge, act' methodology as individuals and community)</li> <li>families seeking sacraments be connected with an existing parish family (ongoing invitation mentoring role) (pilot parish to share experiences, pool resources, trial ideas)</li> </ul>
2.Re-engage & evangelise with communities	2	0	
3.Revisit sacramental programs	7	John Donnelly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>complete work already commissioned on baptism, policy on sacraments of initiation(DPC) and marriage (Council of Priests) by end 2013</li> </ul>
4.Faith development in schools - staff/students/families	4	Mick O'Brien	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Staff               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>spiritual formation day (FEA)</li> <li>primary teachers - Making Jesus Real (MJR) program - secondary teachers - 15-20 places funded to attend a program</li> <li>daily prayer, eucharist for special occasions, retreats</li> </ul> </li> <li>Students               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>every student has an opportunity to attend a class Mass. Fr George 'Year of Faith' initiative</li> </ul> </li> <li>Families               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents invited to attend class Mass and grandparents invited to 'buddy' with a primary student (name tags)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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<p><b><u>Clergy in Parish Leadership</u></b> 5.Develop innovative models of ministry and parish leadership (incl teams, support etc)</p>	17	Ray Collins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review existing structures               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ what's working</li> <li>○ what's not working</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Research other structures in other dioceses/faiths nationally and internationally to find out what works - seek best practice</li> </ul>
<p>6.Training &amp; Formation for lay leadership (incl use of technology)</p>	9	Irene Glover	<p>To achieve basic uniformity in Church as a whole initial formation is needed from trained and experienced mentors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• e.g.New Members to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ parish pastoral councils and teams</li> <li>○ diocesan pastoral council</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Leaders               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ SRE</li> <li>○ faith development</li> <li>○ Sunday celebration in anticipation of eucharist</li> <li>○ bereavement ministry</li> <li>○ extra-ordinary ministers</li> <li>○ proclaimers of the Word</li> <li>○ youth initiatives</li> <li>○ audio visual to accompany Mass and other occasions</li> <li>○ other technology</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Guidelines would be very helpful as some things can be trained locally in parishes but often there are disagreements as people have had different experiences</p>
<p>7.Discern and dialogue with the reality of our lived experience</p>	6	0	

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<p><u>Linkages</u> 8. Develop a culture of collaboration between parishes, chancery, schools CDF and CatholicCare et al (critical for sustainability)</p>	23	Sean Scanlon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify &amp; describe existing forms of collaboration &amp; benefits</li> <li>Analyse new opportunities for collaboration</li> <li>Propose a framework for future &amp; staged collaboration</li> </ul>
<p>9. Significantly improve both internal and external communications (i.e. linkages &amp; good news)</p>	16	Emma Blackford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop basic communication action plan for diocese               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>priorities re communication</li> <li>responsibilities of individuals</li> <li>inter-agency communication meetings/forum (monthly)</li> <li>parishes/schools - means of communication</li> <li>wider community - good news, Catholic brand</li> <li>adequacy of resources??</li> </ul> </li> <li>Royal Commission (RC)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Informed, proactive, positive management of the RC</li> <li>controlling the message</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>10. A long term vision for the Diocese (20 yrs?)</p>	6	Kathryn Fox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a working party to initiate dialogue around the current vision               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jesus</li> <li>Contemporary</li> <li>Relevant</li> <li>Gospel</li> <li>meaningful</li> <li>future oriented</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>that guides who we are and what we do that looks forward</p>

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11. Review Pastoral Plan (inc schools, CCSS, Diocesan Decision processes and structures)	12		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the framework of the current DPP specifically part C 'Diocesan Structure'               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ establish a working party with reps from chancery, parishes, CSO, CCSS, clergy, to make recommendations to the bishop about amendments to the current structure -diocesan assembly</li> <li>○ explicit commitment to the recommendations for change to the 'silo' mentality</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
12. Achieve a 'flagship' Catholic presence in community outreach	10	Jen Smith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a subcommittee to explore a community development and outreach model that could integrate elements of elements of CC, CS and parish to meet clearly identified local parish needs</li> <li>• Suggested sub-committee include but not limited to:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ CC representative</li> <li>○ CS representative</li> <li>○ local parish rep</li> <li>○ independent (Lions, Rotary)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
13. Fund Catholic teachers in state schools	0	0	
14. Identifying and implementing the lessons learnt from abuse issues	11	Louise Gannon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk to Insights Team to seek advice</li> <li>• Independently commission 'someone' to examine/research and identify culture &amp; climate that fosters conditions enabling abusive behaviours</li> <li>• Education/consciousness raising prevent</li> <li>• Develop a mechanism to address issues</li> </ul>

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15. Vision and Others		0	

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### **Session 7 – Next Steps**

1. In consultation with the Executive Team Bishop Bill will look at the priorities and direct who will have carriage in order to make recommendations to him( this could be the DPC or other Councils)
2. Communications Strategy for the information to be shared more broadly
  - a. Each of the participants can speak of this - talk about the process and priorities
  - b. Develop an article for Aurora
  - c. Develop a small paragraph in parish bulletins
  - d. Send letters to various other diocesan structures
  - e. A record of the Forum will be made available on the diocesan website
  - f. Feedback should be given to diocesan staff as soon as is practicable.
3. Further gatherings of this leadership group should take place on a regular basis
  - Proposal that each 2 months there might be a group chosen from those represented here who meet with the Diocesan Executive to receive a report
  - Perhaps every 2<sup>nd</sup> year tap into the current leadership groups of the diocese to re-meet and review
  - An end of year meeting to be held to see what has actually happened and what then needs to be done