

PASTORAL INITIATIVES

#	ACTION	WHO	WHEN
150	<p>The Chancery exists principally to support the ministry of the Bishop, and to assist and provide advice to parishes, chaplaincies and agencies of the Diocese. It also has responsibility to oversee the finances and the property of the Diocese. The following actions are to be undertaken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A comprehensive review and restructuring of the Chancery will be undertaken to achieve a renewed focus on “service delivery” to stakeholders and best practice in administration and communications • Growing the resources available to the Bishop, parishes, chaplaincies and agencies to support their ministries • Appropriate staffing within current financial stringencies • Formation, professional development and retreats for staff 	Bishop, Moderator of the Curia, Diocesan Business Manager, Chancery	2014
151	Establish a Pastoral Planning Office to support the implementation of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, and provide resources, workshops and advice to foster a culture of planning, liaising with parishes, agencies, movements and other groups within and beyond the Diocese (e.g. the National Pastoral Planners Network)	Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation and Pastoral Planning, Pastoral Planning Office	2014-2015
152	Review and updating of all existing diocesan policies to ensure they serve the pastoral priorities of the Diocese	Moderator of the Curia, Chancery, Chancellor, agencies	2014 (ongoing)
153	<p>The diocesan Communications Team to undertake the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a diocesan-wide communications policy and relevant materials to support Chancery, clergy, parishes, religious, chaplaincies, agencies and ministries in media engagement with the wider community as part of their evangelising mission • Support the development of a secure online information management system to facilitate the sharing of information and build collaboration between diocesan agencies and ministries, parishes and Chancery • Develop online diocesan resources including directories of clergy, religious, retreat and conference facilities, and key contacts relevant to the mission of our parishes and Diocese as a whole • Strengthen the online presence of <i>Catholic Outlook</i>, reviewing costs and revenue streams, and support of parishes, ministries and agencies by promotion of their activities • Provide media training to designated diocesan spokespeople in Chancery, parishes, ministries and agencies to enhance the communications capacity of the Diocese 	Communications Team, parishes, agencies	2014-2015



“Pastoral ministry in a missionary key seeks to abandon the complacent attitude that says: ‘We have always done it this way’. I invite everyone to be bold and creative in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelisation in their respective communities”

Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 3

154	<p>The following initiatives in the areas of social media are to be undertaken to support the communications of the Diocese:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct an audit of all parish and agency websites and social media, supporting the establishment or renewal of these sites and media across the Diocese • Assist each agency to implement a customised digital strategy to support outreach, dialogue and connections with individuals and communities throughout the Diocese and beyond • Explore the development of a Diocese of Parramatta mobile app that provides Mass times and other information • Develop and conduct regular social media training sessions to assist parishes and agencies in their use of such media • Regularly consult and engage with youth and young adults in the Diocese, to foster awareness of the diocesan social media presence and to gather advice on trends in the digital realm 	Social Media Coordinator, Communications Team, parishes, agencies	2014-2016
155	<p>With great sadness the leaders of the Diocese of Parramatta acknowledge the pain and suffering caused by clergy, religious and other Church personnel of our Diocese who have abused children, adolescents and adults in their care. We extend our sincere and profound sorrow and regret to those whose trust and innocence has been so grievously violated. Sexual abuse is a crime, a grave sin before God and to be condemned in the strongest possible terms. This conduct is intolerable and has no place in the Church of the future.</p> <p>The Diocese of Parramatta commits itself to taking action to ensure that the safety and well-being of all children and vulnerable groups is given the highest priority in all ministries. On this basis the Diocese is committed to best practice in the area of the management of professional standards into the future. In particular, we commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting victims first by providing pastoral care and other assistance for victims of abuse and their families through a revised complaint management process • A new Office for Safeguarding and Professional Standards • Development of proactive initiatives to ensure safety in ministry and protection from harm of all children and other vulnerable groups who are engaged in pastoral ministry • Delivery of comprehensive education, training and resources to Church workers and volunteers in the Diocese on contemporary safeguarding practices and professional standards required • Coordination of professional and thorough investigations into allegations of breaches of professional standards • Prayer and penance by the Bishop, clergy, religious and laity in reparation for sexual abuse committed by Church workers • Full cooperation with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and collaboration with the Truth, Justice and Healing Council • Ongoing dialogue with government agencies including NSW Police and the NSW Ombudsman's Office • Regular review and development of policies and practices related to safeguarding and professional standards • Transparency and honesty in our communications • Openness to continued improvement in practice in the area of safeguarding and professional standards 	Office for Safeguarding and Professional Standards, Bishop, clergy, religious, laity	Ongoing
156	<p>Establish Pastoral Life Centres in deaneries of the Diocese, based in existing parishes, to offer faith formation, resources and social support services closer to our people. Potential sites include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Thomas Aquinas Parish, Springwood • St Patrick's Parish, Blacktown • St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith • St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Parramatta • St Michael's Parish, Baulkham Hills • The Parish of Richmond or Windsor 	Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation and Pastoral Planning, IFM, CatholicCare, Deans, Pastoral Planning Office	2014-2016



157	<p>The Diocese and parishes to work towards cultivating a more educated faith among its members through the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consideration of scholarships to encourage lay people to take up studies at IFM or at a tertiary institution in theology or related disciplines • promotion of theological and spiritual reading through the provision of bookshops, libraries, websites and recommendations • promotion of public lectures and discussion groups on a range of theological and related disciplines in addition to the offerings of IFM and Pastoral Life Centres 	Episcopal Vicar for Education and Formation, IFM, Pastoral Planning Office, clergy, parishes	2014-2016
158	<p>Establish and promote adoration chapels within each deanery of the Diocese for prayer and reflection. It is recommended that each chapel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be open at least from the morning and into the evening to facilitate adoration; • be overseen by the parish priest with lay leaders and prayer groups to assist in the organisation and practice of Eucharistic adoration; • be adequately signposted and promoted both within the parish and deanery as an opportunity for spiritual nourishment and renewal <p>Potential sites include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Patrick's Parish, Blacktown • St Anthony's Parish, Toongabbie • St Nicholas of Myra Parish, Penrith • St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Parramatta • St Canice's Church, Katoomba • Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, St Marys • St Michael's Parish, Baulkham Hills • Our Lady of the Angels Parish, Rouse Hill 	Deans, Office for Worship, Pastoral Planning Office	2014-2016
159	<p>Enhance the awareness and availability of sacramental Confession throughout the Diocese through the following initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow through of Bishop Anthony's pastoral letter "Come Back To Me" with a drive to restore the regular practice of sacramental Confession and appropriate preparation for Holy Communion in the Diocese through catechesis and preaching on this great sacrament of mercy • Confession to be offered at least annually, and ideally more often, to every Catholic child in our schools • Every parish and chaplaincy to publish regular and generous times when the Sacrament of Penance is being celebrated in the Church • In the seasons of Advent and Lent deaneries or neighbouring parishes should arrange for at least one celebration of the Second Rite of Reconciliation, with promotion of its availability in parishes and online 	Deans, clergy and parishes	2014
160	<p>The Diocese will seek to increase the pastoral care, as well as extend the social support, available to Indigenous peoples and communities. This will include enhancing the celebration of Aboriginal Sunday across the Diocese, building up community life and relationships with those beyond the community, encouraging the expression of culture and providing for spiritual formation</p>	Aboriginal Catholic Services, Episcopal Vicar for Chaplaincies and Health, Office for Worship, parishes	2014-2016

“Let me say this once more: God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy. Christ, who told us to forgive one another ‘seventy times seven’ (*Mt 18:22*) has given us his example: he has forgiven us seventy times seven . . . he makes it possible for us to lift up our heads and to start anew”

– Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 3

161	Develop a diocesan multicultural plan with ideas and priorities for the pastoral care of migrants and refugees within the Diocese, as well as raising awareness within parishes and agencies of our multicultural communities and heritage, Church documents and celebrations concerning migrants	Episcopal Vicar for Chaplaincies and Health, Social Justice Office, CatholicCare	2014
162	In support of migrant communities within the Diocese, the following initiatives are proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occasional Pastoral Letters from the Bishop to migrant communities in the Diocese to communicate hopes and expectations • Encouragement of planning meetings between migrant chaplains to exchange ideas and possibilities for collaboration • Explore the possibility of sharing migrant chapels and facilities to make the most of our resources and witness to unity in faith • Vocations material, information and discernment days to extend beyond parish boundaries to all ethnic communities, in collaboration with the Vocations Office 	Episcopal Vicar for Chaplaincies and Health, Migrant chaplains	2014-2016 (ongoing)
163	Strengthen the activities of the diocesan Commission for Ecumenical and Interfaith Dialogue through the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced promotion of the Commission’s work through hardcopy and online material, talks and seminars on ecumenism and interfaith dialogue, and parish and school engagement with these initiatives • Review contact databases and available speakers, lecturers and grassroots supporters of this engagement • Strengthen connections and networks with existing interchurch groups within and beyond the Diocese, as well as expand contacts with other religious communities not already engaged (e.g. Hindus) • Consider parish or Cathedral open day/s to strengthen mutual understanding of religious communities in the Diocese 	Commission for Ecumenical and Interfaith Dialogue, parishes	2014-2016
164	Young Christian Students (YCS) and Young Christian Workers (YCW) to support the mission of the Diocese through the following initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased collaboration with the Social Justice Office in “Just Leadership Days”, providing workshops in schools and parishes of the Diocese • Facilitate post-WYD opportunities for pilgrims and students to engage with issues of social justice including refugees, asylum seekers, racism and social exclusion on a local basis, including visitation of Villawood Detention Centre • Increase awareness in schools of the centrality of social justice action among students • Facilitate International English Language Testing System (IELTS) preparation classes, computer classes and volunteer leadership programs that serve the needs of young people and migrant communities • Increase the presence of YCW in parishes of the Diocese, offering the “See, Judge and Act” methodology as a means of applying faith to life 	Young Christian Students, Young Christian Workers, CEO, parishes	2014-2018
165	Strengthen the Catholic identity and mission of Catholic healthcare and aged care facilities by the following initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation activities in mission and identity for leaders and staff; • Visible signs of Catholic identity e.g. chapels, crucifixes; • Review of Catholic contribution to health and aged care in Western Sydney with a view to greater involvement by large Catholic providers; • Ensuring quality chaplaincy by clergy, religious and lay people so that the sick and elderly receive appropriate pastoral care 	Episcopal Vicar for Chaplaincies and Health, hospital and aged care chaplains	2014-2015 (ongoing)
166	Expand university chaplaincy across the Diocese by establishing a multicampus ministry, consisting of teams of clergy, religious and laity, providing for the sacramental support, catechesis and other pastoral care of students, staff and alumni	Episcopal Vicar for Chaplaincies and Health, Vicars General	2014-2016
167	Increase civil chaplaincy , including chaplaincies to police and prisoners, military personnel and hospitals through the provision of liturgy and Eucharist, opportunities for personal and group prayer, Bible study, faith education and pastoral care	Episcopal Vicar for Chaplaincies and Health, Vicars General	2014-2016

168	Groups and movements to offer courses at Pastoral Life Centres (or parishes) throughout the Diocese in support of adult formation, prayer and conversations in faith, such as the Siena Institute (Called and Gifted workshops), Alpha (In a Catholic Context), the Ignatian method, the CatholicGuy, and Catholic Charismatic Renewal	Siena Institute, Alpha Australia, Society of Jesus, CatholicGuy, Catholic Charismatic Renewal, IFM	2014-2016
169	Promote engagement with Life Ascending Australia , a movement for mature and older Christians, to liaise with parish communities in the promotion of spirituality, friendship and loving service among the aged	Life Ascending Australia, parishes	2014-2018
170	Campion College to collaborate with the Diocese in the following initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of an annual family day providing Catholic families with the opportunity to gather on campus around food, fellowship and family life; • Availability of staff, including theology lecturers, for talks within the Diocese on marriage, family life and other topics • Continued support of student participation at diocesan, national and international youth events and pilgrimages, offering of “Faith, Formation and Virtue” seminars and availability of the campus for youth group retreats • Funding students from overseas, including from East Timor, for study and supporting mission trips by Campion students overseas • Availability of courses in philosophy, theology and other liberal arts for all youth, including those preparing to enter seminary or religious life • Ongoing invitation of all clergy to events at Campion College including lectures, formal hall dinners and graduations • Daily Mass open to all • Continued outreach events including “Campion Cafe Conversations” 	Campion College, Episcopal Vicar for Education and Formation	2014-2018
171	Sydney Alliance to support the pastoral life and missionary outreach of the Diocese through the following initiatives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling and enhancing parish engagement with the broader community and local government in line with Catholic principles on issues of local concern • Providing opportunity for parishes to participate in combined training and assembly in collaboration with a wide variety of local churches, faith-based and community groups • Assist in the recruitment and training of new parish pastoral council members and parish training in mission planning, assemblies, community and relationship-building initiatives • Facilitating the integration and collaboration of migrant communities within parish communities • Maintaining connections between post-school age youth and parishes through schools formation, training and internship opportunities for post-school aged youth • Training and forums related to deepening the principles and practice of Catholic social teaching 	Sydney Alliance, Social Justice Office	2014-2018