



Diocesan Councils Information Pack

Pastoral Ministries are seeking people from the Catholic community to join a Diocesan council, there are several opportunities for volunteers to join a council that they are passionate and have similar interest with the other members.

To complete an Expression of Interest (see over page)

Overview of Diocesan Councils

Diocesan Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Ministry Council

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Ministry in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle fosters the spiritual, cultural, and social awareness and development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

The Diocesan Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholic Ministry Council, meet bi-monthly on the first Friday of the month from 10.00 to 12.00pm.

Diocesan Adult Faith Formation Council

The Diocesan Adult Faith Formation Council support the development and delivery of faith formation across the Diocese. The Council discern faith formation projects and proposals and oversee the work of advisory groups which branch from the Diocesan foundation of Formation and Education.

The Diocesan Adult Faith Formation Council meet virtually on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 4.00 to 6.00 pm via Zoom invite.

Diocesan Council for Ministry with Young People

The Diocesan Council for Ministry with Young People (DCMYP) serve as an advisory body to the Bishop with the mission to help foster a passionate, imaginative, and vibrant community of faith-filled people. We help to organise and plan a series of events and initiatives geared towards young people that offer the opportunity to belong to a community of believers, to experience growth in faith and to access formation and outreach opportunities; that empower young people to be strengthened in the call to be missionary disciples.

The Diocesan Council for Ministry with Young People meet virtually on the fourth Thursday of the month from 5.30 to 7.00 pm.

Diocesan Council for Women

The Diocesan Council for Women consults with women, parishes, diocesan and apostolic bodies to identify areas of concern and needs. In anticipation of formation and support to women in leadership, decision making and, in the life, of the mission of the church. The council will advocate for women and communicate with women in the diocese, through established and emerging technologies.

The Diocesan Council for Women meet on the second Thursday of each month from 4.00pm to 5.30pm in the Diocesan Offices or via Zoom invite.

Diocesan Ecumenical and Interfaith Council

The Diocesan Ecumenical and Interfaith Council aim to promote and strengthen ecumenical and interfaith attitudes within the diocese. Facilitates and encourages initiatives at a parish and regional levels and offers advice to the Bishop on these matters.

The Diocesan Ecumenical and Interfaith Council meet virtually on the second Tuesday of the month from 4.30 to 5.30 pm via Zoom invite .

Diocesan Liturgy Council

This council are not seeking expressions of interest currently.

Diocesan Social Justice Council

The Diocesan Social Justice Council aims to reach out to those who have been marginalised, discriminated against, and impoverished. The Council facilitates the preparation of diocesan responses to current justice issues, instigates dialogue with and investigates issues of concern to marginalised people or communities and parishes.

The Diocesan Social Justice Council meet virtually on the third Wednesday of the month from 4.00 to 5.30 pm via Zoom invite.

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Responsibilities of the Diocesan Councils

1. The Council consults with parishes, regions, and Apostolic groups of the Diocese, within their field of expertise, to identify issues, concerns or needs that require attention.
2. The Council informs the Bishop, through the Director Pastoral Ministries of issues, areas of concern or needs and recommends appropriate action/responses to these realities.
3. The Council has links to “like” bodies and organisations in other dioceses (both nationally and internationally), to the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, and to the Congregations and Pontifical Councils of the Vatican, to be aware of issues, projects, resources etc. that might need to be brought to the attention of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle.
4. The Council informs the Bishop, through the Director Pastoral Ministries of issues, projects, resources etc... that come from outside the diocese and recommends appropriate action/responses to these matters.
5. Each Diocesan Council cooperates with the other Diocesan Councils and the Director Pastoral Ministries to develop long-term and short-term goals and plans for the development of the life of the Church in the diocese and to provide formation and education to achieve said goals.
6. The Council communicates with and provides ongoing support for “like” bodies that exist at the parish or regional level and in the community.
7. The Council provides advice within its area of expertise when requested.

Prospective Volunteers are asked to complete an Expression of Interest form, once complete will be invited to attend a few meetings before becoming a member of the council.

Joining a Diocesan Council

Interested in volunteering as a member of one of the Diocesan Councils?

Membership is open to men and women over the age of 18 years and of good moral character and reputation.

Please complete an *Expression of Interest Form* by using this [link](#).

We will make contact regarding the process of becoming a member upon receiving your *Expression of Interest Form*.

If you would like any further information, please contact Jenny Harris **E** jenny.harris@mn.catholic.org.au or **P** 4979 1334.