

STRATEGIC PLAN

OFFICE OF RENEWAL AND EVANGELISATION

INTRODUCTION

This strategic plan documents and sets a path forward for the Office of Renewal and Evangelisation (ORE) in the Diocese of Wollongong from the insights gained via various consultations, professional learning, and prayerful discernment. Developed in mid 2017, this document was used in draft form until April 2018 when it was endorsed by the new Bishop of Wollongong, Most Rev Brian Mascord for ongoing use and annual updating throughout 2018–2020

Consultation

- Detailed response data from parishioners gained from the Diocesan-wide participation in the National Church Life Survey (NCLS), providing valuable information about parish life.
- 2016 Review of the former Parish Services & CCD Teams including listening to Clergy, Parishioners, Agencies and Diocesan Councils.
- Continued relevance of previous Diocesan Pastoral Planning that identified the long-term, ongoing nature of the challenges facing the Diocese and broader Church.
- Dialogue with diocesan clergy and lay leaders within the Australian Church about parish renewal.

Professional Learning

- Insights gained from the ACBC Document Building Stronger Parishes.
- National Proclaim conferences, particularly the insights provided by National Pastoral Research Office and the successes of the parish renewal models proposed in Rebuilt and Divine Renovation, that identify the need to primarily reconnect with core church missional activities, articulated strongly since Vatican II, and now urgently by Pope Francis.

Prayerful Discernment

- Members of the Office of Renewal and Evangelisation (ORE) have wrestled with these learnings, and after prayerful discernment and ongoing consultation, have refocused the mission and vision of the Office of Renewal and Evangelisation, identifying core priorities that support the renewal of Catholic life and culture in vibrant communities that embrace the mission of the Church in new ways.

MISSION

The purpose of the ORE team Diocese of Wollongong is to aid Parish communities to effectively propose Jesus Christ, make disciples and equip the faithful to carry out the mission of Jesus Christ in the world.

VISION

The vision for the ORE team is that all people in our Diocese personally encounter the love and mercy of the Father through Jesus Christ, live in vibrant communities of believers, and share this encounter in the power of the Holy Spirit.

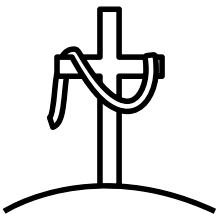
VALUES

The Office of Renewal and Evangelisation is committed to a set of values leading to cultural transformation and renewal within the Diocese. In an organizational context, culture is expressed as the predictable ways of thinking and acting, in what we tolerate and reward, and how we spend our time and money.

With Pope Francis, we believe this renewal of the Church cannot be deferred. This cultural renewal is grounded in 'a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the

Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation'. (*Evangelii Gaudium* 27)

Based on the aforementioned consultation, research and prayerful discernment in light of the exhortation of Popes since Vatican II, the following values underpin the cultural transformation and key objectives of the Office of Renewal and Evangelisation.



Encounter with Jesus

We believe encountering the risen Jesus through hearing the basic Gospel proclaimed and openness to the Holy Spirit, transforms lives.



Deepening Relationships

Growing and nurturing strong and ongoing relationships with God and each other, is vital for the health of individuals and communities and is at the heart of discipleship and Christian faith.



Sunday Eucharist

The joy, beauty and relevance of our Sunday Eucharist is the source of our renewed self-giving and participation in mission.



Personal Invitation

Our experience of the transformative power of our encounter with Jesus, of a loving community and Sunday Eucharist, leads us to joyfully look for opportunities to invite others into these relationships.



KEY OBJECTIVES

Worship

Foster engaging worship and music as part of a vibrant and relevant sacramental life

Community

Develop communities of welcome, belonging and relationship, where people are known and loved.

Ministry / Service

Identify and nurture the gifts and desire of individuals in communities for the service of God and others.

Evangelisation

Share our love for Jesus, invite others to encounter the love of God and the parish community, creating a desire to belong and know more.

Discipleship

Nurture and grow the desire of parishioners to deepen their understanding of, and relationship with Jesus and the Church.

Intentional leadership

Build a culture where leaders inspire, nurture and empower people to live out their fundamental calling as missionary disciples.

KEY STRATEGIES & INITIATIVES FOR REACHING OUR OBJECTIVES

The table below outlines the key strategies and initiatives for ongoing cultural renewal within parishes that the ORE Team will undertake over the coming two years. These strategies and initiatives will form the major emphasis for the work of the whole team. Individuals will continue working on other specific duties and responsibilities as outlined in their role descriptions.

| KEY OBJECTIVES | STRATEGIES / INITIATIVES |
|---|--|
| <p>WORSHIP</p> <p>Foster engaging worship and music as part of a vibrant and relevant sacramental life.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing assistance to enhance parish musical repertoire & quality • Assisting Clergy Life & Ministry to provide homily resources for clergy • Supporting ministries to deepen their culture of hospitality |
| <p>COMMUNITY</p> <p>Develop communities of welcome, belonging and relationship, where people are known and loved.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a culture of Small Group Faith Sharing: Faith Circles- Connect Group model • Reengaging men with faith: Men-Alive Weekends & small groups |
| <p>MINISTRY & SERVICE</p> <p>Identify and nurture the gifts and desire of individuals in communities for the service of God and others.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowering broader involvement & outreach utilizing gift discernment processes • Providing training & authorisation for ministry and service • Promoting a culture of safety through ministry tracking via the CathLink project |
| <p>EVANGELISATION</p> <p>Share our love for Jesus, invite others to encounter the love of God and the parish community, creating a desire to belong and know more.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting Outreach Ministries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Alpha – Father Factor Evenings & Good to Great Weekends • Engaging Children & Youth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Youth Ministry ‘Live’ & Encounter Events – Children’s Ministry holiday events • Enhancing social media and communications strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Diocesan Website – Journey Catholic Radio - Podcasts |
| <p>DISCIPLESHIP</p> <p>Nurture and grow the desire of parishioners to deepen their understanding of, and relationship with Jesus and the Church.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementing formation that develops a culture for missionary discipleship • Ongoing support for CCD • Engaging Families & Youth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CathFamily – Regional Youth Groups – University Chaplaincy • Promotion, facilitation and delivery of adult faith, social justice, prayer and spirituality formation resources and programs. |
| <p>INTENTIONAL LEADERSHIP</p> <p>Build a culture where leaders inspire, nurture and empower people to live out their fundamental calling as missionary disciples.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowering parish renewal and a culture of mission using the Divine Renovation renewal principles. • Establishing a leadership culture across all ministries for forming missionary disciples • Providing leadership formation and support for clergy, pastoral councils and parish leadership teams. |