

## Bishop Keith Dalby's Inaugural Meeting

The November meeting marked Bishop Keith's inaugural Diocesan Council. He provided members with a written report outlining his experiences within the Diocese since his commencement in September. This included moving, the Rural and Remote Ministry conference in Victoria, his son's Graduations, the Annual Clergy Retreat and the Grand Tour. Bishop Keith stated that the Grand Tour was an excellent time for him to travel the Diocese and listen to what is going on in the local areas.

## Council and Committee Vacancies

Council dealt with a number of vacancies. Fr David Price and Fr Andrew Forder will fill the two vacancies on Provincial Council. Fr David Patterson (Clerical), Fr Paul Devenport (Clerical Reserve) and Ruth Daws (Laitie Reserve) were appointed to fill the vacancies to General Synod. Council agreed to leave the Clerical vacancy to Diocesan Council in abeyance and call for nominations at the next session of Synod.

## Appointment of the Professional Standards Director

Council resolved to appoint Raffaele Angelino as Professional Standards Director.

## Safe Church Environment

Fr David Patterson advised that 2019 had been a rather intensive year for the courses that have been run throughout the Diocese. He was pleased to report that the online training option, in place since August, is being picked up by some people. Fr David has met with the trainer and selected tentative availability times for 2020. Projections for training in 2020 indicate that refresher courses are due by the majority. Fr David is developing some documentation to assist the parish coordinators with the training sessions, registration processes and general feedback.

## National Redress Scheme

The Registrar reported that all of the on-boarding arrangements are in place and that the Diocese of The Murray was declared as a Participating Institution in the National Redress Scheme on 25th September 2019.

## Property Report

Jeff McHugh provided an update to Council which included the successful settlement of the vacant land in Old Noarlunga. Two other developments of church properties are still being negotiated.

## Registry Relocation

Council were advised that the Registry relocation to 4 Clara St would be on the 2nd December 2019.

## 50th Anniversary Celebrations 2020

Ruth Daws was thanked for the excellent report which was circulated to members sharing ideas for the 50th Anniversary Celebrations collected from various people throughout the Diocese. A logo has also been prepared for the occasion which has been well received. The Diocesan calendar project was underway with distribution before Christmas. A back to church Sunday service has also been successfully floated to take place at various local churches. Arrangements for the blessing of the waters near the Mouth of the Murray River on Thursday 16th April (anniversary of the Diocese) still need to be finalised and advertised fully.

## Finance, Audit and Investment Recommendations

Council passed the following recommendations from the FAI Committee for 2020.

*Clergy Stipend:* The minimum stipend for a Parish Priest in full time service be set at \$56,538 pa. This represents a 2% increase.

*Clergy Travel Rates:* That only the "fixed costs" component be changed from 2019

*Notional Housing Allowance:* Unchanged from 2019

*Occasional Fees:* Unchanged from 2019

*MTF & HMF Voluntary Mission Targets:* Unchanged from 2019. It was noted that the actuals are below the target recommendations and that Parishes and Pastoral Districts need to be encouraged to give more to these annual appeals.

## Distribution Rate

Council moved that the interest distribution rate for the six month period 1 April 2019 to 30 September 2019, to be paid on all parish/diocesan investments, be paid at 1.25%.

## Ministry Reviews

Ministry Reviews are being trialled in the Western Fleurieu Mission Partnership. Council noted how exciting it is that the Mission Partnership is applying locally everything back to the Diocesan strategic plan. They were applauded for their initiative and it was agreed that the outcomes should be provided by way of an encouragement to the other Mission Partnerships to assist with their strategic direction.

## National Church Life Survey

Bishop Keith referred to the National Church Life Survey (NCLS) and his desire for the Diocese to participate in this survey in the future.

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