



OPTIONS

Diocesan Pastoral Council

OPTIONS FOR A WORKABLE DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

The Working Party has been asked to consider the past and the present but also to present options for a Diocesan Pastoral Council that will serve us sustainably as we seek to evangelise and to become the Church that Jesus calls us to be.

Clearly questions will need to be asked about appropriate size of the Council, how its members might be chosen, how to ensure sufficient representation without becoming unwieldy or onerous? How will it meet? How the Council will function both in its plenary sense and between meetings? How will the Council engage in its core functions: to investigate, consider and propose practical conclusions about the pastoral work of the Archdiocese?

As we have learned during the pandemic, we now have significant technological options that enable much more frequent opportunities to meet without the obstacle of the tyranny of distance which is part of life in this Archdiocese. At the same time, the experience of these last two years has also taught us of the essential need to actually meet face-to-face, to come to know another person and how they are thinking and responding. Any options for a diocesan pastoral council will need to take both these elements into consideration. It will also be important to consider the different needs within this complex Archdiocese – the needs of the coastal communities are not identical to the needs of our western parishes; the needs of the rapidly growing communities of Goulburn, Yass and Quenbeyan regions are not the same as those of Canberra.