

# 2024 Renewal Update: Pastoral Projects

## Leader Dr Madeline Beveridge



This year marked significant progress across five key projects in the Diocese of Lismore's Renewal Journey. It's been an honour to visit many parishes, meeting clergy, parishioners, and staff, and witness our shared vision for a vibrant future. Special thanks go to the coordination team and Chancery staff for their steadfast support.

### **Youth Ministry Renewal**

The Youth Ministry team, led by Fr Joy D'Souza, Gemma Ballantine, Travis Lyon, and Sister Di Moralde CM, presented a robust proposal to Bishop Greg. The plan, targeting youth engagement across age segments, aims to establish a hybrid model with regional and parish-specific youth activities.

### **Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) Development**

Led by Fr Paul McDonald and Margaret Gill, the DPC team proposed three models for a new council, inspired by Pope Francis' call to synodality and discipleship. After consulting clergy and lay leaders, the team prepared a handbook to guide potential council members and will present their work to the Council of Priests in early 2025.

### **Inter-Parish Collaboration**

The Interparish Collaboration team, led by Fr Roland, Trevor Cooper, Jerome Fernandez facilitated workshops in Tweed Heads, Murwillumbah, and Kingscliff, focusing on financial sustainability, organisational capacity, and parish vitality. Following this success, the team plans to expand to parishes in Coffs Harbour region.

### **Lay-Led Liturgy Implementation**

After researching protocols and parish needs, the Lay-Led Liturgy team, led by Fr Michael Roohan and Kurt Challinor developed a comprehensive guide for lay-led services. They presented to Bishop Greg in November, with work in 2025 to support the formation of leaders and resources for parishes.

### **Clergy Induction and Transfer Processes**

The "Clergy Welcoming" team, led by Cathy Donnelley crafted protocols for international priest inductions and parish transfers. In November, Fr Philip Borla's induction into St Carthage's Parish, Lismore, was a pilot that highlighted valuable refinements; strengthening these processes are an essential part of the Renewal Journey.

For more information about these projects see the full annual update on the Diocese Renewal website

<https://www.lismorediocese.org/renewal>