



PLENARY COUNCIL FORMATION

Our diocesan Plenary Council Members are now embarking on their formation in preparation for the Plenary Council taking place later in the year.

We ask all parishioners to keep our members in their prayers as they prepare for this important event in the life of the Catholic Church in Australia.

Lismore Diocese Plenary Council Members:

Fr Paul Gooley has been a priest of our diocese for 30 years. He is currently the Vicar General and is a member of the College of Consultors, Council of Priests and the Diocesan Finance Council and is Parish Priest of Port Macquarie. His prayer is that the Plenary Council is able to respond to the ongoing pastoral needs of our parish communities and that parishes will continue to be the evangelising face of Jesus Christ to our wider communities on the north coast. Just like the Eucharistic prayer used in Masses, he hopes that the Holy Spirit will 'grant that all the faithful of the Church, looking into the signs of the times by the light of faith, may constantly devote themselves to the service of the Gospel.'

Fr Peter Slack is Parish Priest of Casino, in addition to other diocesan responsibilities. As a member of the Council he hopes to enter into a prayerful encounter with the other members of the Council as, together with the Bishops, we discern what "God expects of the Church in the third millennium".

Miss Ellen Hales currently holds a dual role as the Catholic Schools Office, Youth Ministry Development Officer, where she guides school-based youth ministry, pioneering a vision for diocesan young adult ministry. As a young Catholic deeply committed to seeing the Catholic Church in Australia flourish, she seeks to ground herself in deep spirituality and prayer and hopes to offer insight into the needs, potential and contribution of young adults to the Australian Plenary Council during her time as a member and is looking forward to playing her role in this significant moment in Australian Catholic history.

Dr Deirdre Little is a deeply committed member of her parish community at St Mary's Catholic Church, Bellingen and also in the wider Catholic Church through her work as an organiser of the Australian Catholic Doctors Conference, co-founder of Project Life in the Lismore diocese and the Lily Rose pro-life antenatal clinic and counselling and support centre. Her hope as a member of the Plenary Council is to contribute to the strengthening of parish communities into the future to be better able to provide effective witness in society through a deeper understanding of Church teaching and to be better able to care for our neighbours, especially our most vulnerable and needy.