



SALE DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

Sharing Our Story, Celebrating Our Faith, Shaping Our Future

Dear Friends in Christ

The Diocese of Sale is holding its Diocesan Assembly, the first for over 15 years, in September. The Assembly will be convened in the spirit of the preparation for the Plenary Council 2020 in which we have already been engaged for the past eighteen months. Bishop Pat and the Diocesan *Gaudium et Spes* Plenary 20-20 Committee have been aware that, through the feedback from hundreds of listening and Dialogue conversations held in parishes, schools and regional gatherings, there is much that can be done in our Diocese right now.

We want to hear from people all across our Diocese about the vision they have for their diocese and parishes in living the joy of the Gospel.

The Sale Diocesan Assembly will be held at Marist Sion College Warragul on Friday 13th and Saturday 14th September 2019. Our Facilitators for the Assembly will be Mr Shane Dwyer, Director, and Mrs Sharon Brewer, Mission Projects manager from the National Centre for Evangelisation, Canberra. Also in attendance will be Ms Lana Turvey-Collins, the National Plenary Facilitator.

The Assembly begins at 5.00 pm on Friday 13th September and concludes at 4.00 pm on Saturday 14th September. We hope to have around 400 people attending the Assembly. All delegates must be able to commit to attending the entire Assembly proceedings.

In July, we will send invitations to all clergy, parishes, heads of Diocesan agencies, Diocesan councils, school principals, religious education leaders and others. We also hope to invite and welcome official observers from other Christians Churches. Parish representatives will make up a significant proportion of the delegates at the Assembly.

It is expected that clergy will be present with their parish representatives. Parish delegate numbers will be based loosely on the 2016 National Mass Count data for the Diocese of Sale. Further details about the numbers of delegates from each parish, how to choose delegates and online booking details will be sent to clergy and parishes in mid-July.

Bishop Pat is pleased to announce the themes of this year's Assembly, which have been gathered from the Listening and Dialogue responses from across the Diocese, including the feedback from over 400 people who attended the Regional *Listening and Dialogue Sessions with the Bishop* held late last year.

The major Assembly themes are:

- 1. Faith Formation & Spirituality (living out the joy of the Gospel)**
- 2. Leadership & Governance (providing leadership and structures that promote evangelisation)**
- 3. Families and Vocation (raising disciples in our families - so that they can go out into the world)**
- 4. Liturgy and Prayer (nourishing our communities)**
- 5. The Welcoming Community (a community on mission, not maintenance)**

A simple conversation process is being finalised and this will be distributed to parishes in mid-July, with an invitation to engage their communities in some discussion of the Assembly topics before the Assembly gathering in September.

We are hoping that the Plenary Animators/ Team Leaders in each parish will help facilitate conversations in their communities in preparation for the Diocesan Assembly.

I am on annual leave from 7th June to 7th July and will provide further resources, information and updates upon my return.

Should you have any questions in the meantime, please contact the Bishop's PA, Catherine Dougan on 5622 6690 or email pa@sale.catholic.org.au

Kind regards,

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Diocesan Assembly Convenor

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