



Proposal One:

A Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) is established as the primary consultative body to advise the Bishop in pastoral priorities, planning and decision making. The Diocesan Pastoral Council will operate in accordance with statutes determined by the Bishop, under the following core principles:

- Consistency for common standards/shared framework across parishes with allowance for local expression
- Well formed Lay Leaders as foundational to a synodal way of working
- Listening and discernment with two-way communication as the basis of consultation
- Transparency and accountability and resolution pathways

Proposal Two:

Strategic Mission and Pastoral Goals are developed by the Diocesan Pastoral Council, arising from the prayerful listening, dialogue, and discernment of the 2025 -2026 Synod journey of the Diocese of Cairns, to address the following focus areas:

- a. Building a synodal church marked by listening, dialogue and shared discernment and the recognition that all the baptised are integral to the mission of the church.
- b. To form missionary disciples for leadership, service, and daily life through ongoing formation in faith, leadership, and discernment, enabling clergy and lay people to live the Gospel in contemporary contexts.
- c. Strengthening parishes as welcoming, vital and mission-focused communities, attentive to Christ present among the poor and vulnerable.
- d. Renewed attention to walking with young people and families in faith, life and mission.





Proposal Three:

The Strategic Mission and Pastoral Goals are prioritised -by providing appropriate support to parishes, with diocesan agencies walking alongside them in implementation according to their local context. This support is guided by co-responsibility, clear communication, and supportive accountability, helping parishes carry out mission and pastoral priorities with confidence and shared purpose.

Proposal Four:

Building on the Bishop's canonical responsibility to conduct regular parish visits, a Parish Visitation Program is established as a structured, pastoral and synodal process, led by the bishop, and supported by diocesan leadership, to reflect on parish life and activity, and plan for the future, guided by the Strategic Mission and Pastoral Goals. The Parish Visitation Program is designed to support communities in their mission through a culture of listening, collaboration and renewal. The Parish Visitation Program will operate in accordance with guidelines determined by the bishop.

The Parish Visitation Program will consist of 3 phases:

- a. Preparation – the Parish team, supported by the diocese, conducts a review and assessment and prepares a report for the bishop
- b. Visitation – The bishop spends several days, meets with community members and listens to their strengths, challenges, hopes and concerns. This will occur a minimum of once every five years.
- c. Follow-up – the bishop provides thoughtful recommendations to support and celebrate the Parish's mission moving forward, affirming leadership, fostering accountability, and supporting communities in their mission through a culture of accompaniment, collaboration, and renewal.

