



Diocese of Broome W.A. Bishop Tim Norton SVD

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A New Voice for the Kimberley Church

History was made on the last weekend in March as a new Kimberley Aboriginal Catholic Pastoral Council was formed. Meeting at Notre Dame University Australia (Broome Campus) people travelled from all corners of the Diocese. People represented Balgo and desert communities, Wyndham / Kununurra in the East Kimberley to the Dampier Peninsula and Western Australia's largest Aboriginal community, Bidadanga. Members were also drawn from the towns of Broome and Derby.

At the 2024 Pentecost Celebration in the East Kimberley representatives from NATSICC presented models of Ministry giving voice to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Catholics. Building on this a group of Aboriginal Church leaders began to develop some Terms of Reference. From this, with the endorsement of Bishop Tim Norton, the council was formed.

Shirley Quaresimin – Deputy Chair of NATSICC and Chair of the Kimberley Aboriginal Catholic Pastoral Council stated: “today is a milestone for us in the Catholic church in the Kimberley. This has long been a dream for our people. It is a way that we can strengthen our faith and share culturally our place in the Catholic church”.

Bishop Tim celebrated Mass with the Council using the Missa Terra Spiritus Sancti, a liturgy which was born in Bidadanga and is widely used in the Kimberley. During this Mass the Councillors were commissioned to be witnesses to the Gospel, to nurture and be of service to all and to encourage people to strengthen their relationship with God and each other.

Bishop Tim Norton – Diocese of Broome

“I’m delighted that this body has come to fruition, and I look forward to working together in the Diocese. I thank them for sharing their wisdom and spirituality and will seek their guidance as we work to build the Reign of God in the Kimberley”.

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