



**MEDIA RELEASE  
2025**

**Thursday 4 September**

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## **Bishop Homeming re-establishes pastoral council**

The Diocese of Lismore is delighted to announce the return of its Diocesan Pastoral Council (DPC) after an eight-year pause. The body brings together clergy, religious, and laity to advise the bishop, reflect on the needs of the diocese, encourage participation and consider diverse perspectives.

The re-establishment of the DPC is part of the Diocesan Renewal Journey. Bishop Greg Homeming said the Council provides an opportunity to foster shared wisdom, pastoral planning, and unity.

“The DPC’s purpose is part of a broader synodal process that provides a place for every part of the Church to have a voice,” Bishop Greg said. “It’s about walking together, discerning together, and finding strength in the diverse gifts of our people.”

The diocese’s first DPC was established in 1989 by Bishop John Satterthwaite to mark the centenary of the diocese and followed on from recommendations by the Second Vatican Council. In 1989, an initial steering committee met with Dr Rodger Austin to discuss a DPC, and this year Dr Rodger returned again to provide his expertise in the development of the statutes and regulations for the new DPC.

Bishop Greg emphasised the importance of drawing on the gifts of a variety of people from across the Diocese.

“We are blessed with extraordinary people of faith who bring wisdom and experience,” Bishop Greg said. “Their contribution will help guide me and strengthen our diocese.”

Nominations and expressions of interest are now open. Individuals can nominate themselves or be nominated by others. Desirable qualities for members include being people of prayer and discernment, passionate about the Church’s mission, good listeners and collaborators, willing to grow in faith, and active in the sacramental and liturgical life of the Church. The first Council meeting is expected in early 2026.

*Find out more and nominate: [bit.ly/LismoreDPC](https://bit.ly/LismoreDPC)*

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**Diocese of Lismore**

The Catholic Diocese of Lismore is located on the east coast of NSW, Australia. It covers over 460 kilometres of lush rainforests, bushland and white sandy beaches - from Tweed in the north to Laurieton in the south. The diocese is home to more than 97,000 Catholics. Under the pastoral leadership of Bishop Gregory Homeming OCD, the diocese fosters spiritual growth, education, and community care across 22 parishes, 47 schools, 10 outside school hours care services, 12 aged and community care services, St Vincent's Lismore Private Hospital, and a range of ministries that serve the needs of local communities.