



DIOCESE OF SALE

MEDIA STATEMENT - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Bold New Chapter: Diocese of Sale Unveils Visionary Pastoral Plan Framework for 2026–2030

In what Bishop Greg Bennet described as *"a highly significant moment in the life of our Diocese,"* the Catholic Diocese of Sale has officially launched its **Diocesan Pastoral Plan Framework 2026–2030**—a bold, hope-filled vision for the future of faith communities across Gippsland and the significant growth corridor in the west of the diocese.

The launch event, held on Friday, 10 October at St Michael's Church in Traralgon, marked the culmination of a year-long journey of prayer, consultation, and deep listening to the Holy Spirit which concluded with the Diocesan Assembly held in February 2025. The outcomes of the Assembly were entrusted to the Diocesan Mission Council to develop this Framework. The result is a spiritually rich and strategically focused roadmap that will guide the pastoral life and mission of parishes, schools, and Catholic agencies over the next five years.

"This framework is not an endpoint, but a starting point for renewal and transformation," said Bishop Greg. *"It is an invitation to each one of us—guided by the Holy Spirit—to explore how we can work together to build a more Christ-centred, synodal, and missionary Church by bringing these six pastoral goals to life in our parishes, schools, and agencies."*

At the heart of this Christ-centred, synodal, and mission-focused plan are six transformative goals:

- **Deepen** Christ-Centred Faith and Spiritual Growth
- **Advance** Synodal Leadership and Engagement
- **Build** an Inclusive and Welcoming Church
- **Inspire** the Engagement of Young People and Families
- **Enhance** Parish–School Collaboration
- **Ignite** Missionary Outreach and Evangelisation

This framework is more than a document—it's a call to action. It empowers each community to develop vibrant, local pastoral plans that reflect their unique gifts, needs, and resources, while remaining united in the shared mission of living the Gospel with renewed purpose and joy.

As Bishop Greg affirms in his message to the people of the Diocese of Sale:

"Let us be bold in our faith, constant in our prayer, and open to the Spirit's movements among us and through us. There will be unexpected challenges on this journey of renewal, but we can take heart in the message of the angel Gabriel, who spoke to Mary's fears and doubts at the moment of the Annunciation, assuring her: 'Nothing is impossible for God.'"

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For further enquiries please be in contact with Siji Dominic: sijid@sale.catholic.org.au