



MEDIA RELEASE
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Bishop Homeming re-establishes Youth Council

Bishop Greg Homeming OCD has re-established the Diocesan Youth Council as part of the Diocese of Lismore's ongoing Renewal Journey, reaffirming the Church's commitment to listening to, accompanying, and empowering young people on their faith journeys.

The newly appointed council met for the first time on 18 October and moving forward it will assist Bishop Homeming in developing a pastoral plan for youth ministry, offering advice and vision for supporting young people across the diocese.

"The Church needs the voice and energy of young people," Bishop Homeming said. "They remind us that faith is alive, that it grows and changes as we do. I hope this council becomes a group where young people are heard. I hope the council will also support their faith as disciples of Jesus."

The council will work collaboratively with Church agencies and local communities to ensure that young people aged 18–35 have meaningful and coordinated opportunities to encounter Christ and deepen their spiritual lives. This group represents an important stage in the life of the Church as young adults transition from secondary education into study, work, and family life.

Fr Joy D'Souza OCD, who chairs the council, said the group's re-establishment is an exciting step forward for youth in the diocese.

"Our hope is to create opportunities for young people to grow in faith, leadership, and service," Fr Joy said. "The Renewal Journey calls us to listen to our young people. To understand their hopes, challenges, and the ways they experience God in the world today. Their input will help shape a more authentic Church that represents them."

Meeting at least five times per year, the council will advise the bishop on key strategies to foster participation, formation, and leadership among young Catholics.

Appointed members:

- Deacon Anthony Gooley
- Deacon Shane Hyland
- Hogan Rogers
- Christa Morrow
- Alice Magner
- Sr Dedith Moralde CM

- Daniel Pereira

Ex-officio members:

- Fr Joy D'Souza OCD (Chair)
- Zac Parnell (Secretary)
- Madeline Beveridge

A commissioning Mass of the council will take place early 2026. More information about the Diocese of Lismore Renewal Journey can be found at: lismorediocese.org/renewal

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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.