

Bishop George opens new Pastoral Life and Mission Centre

The Most Reverend George Kolodziej SDS DD, Bishop of Bunbury, officially opened and blessed the new Pastoral Life and Mission Centre on the 30th of July 2026 in Bunbury. He was assisted by Fr Pierre Repuyan, Vicar General, Fr Tony Chiera, Episcopal Vicar for Clergy, and Kerrie Merritt, Chancellor. The inauguration was part of the three-day Diocesan Assembly attended by clergy, Catholic school leaders, and representatives from different agencies and apostolates in the Diocese.

The music for Rite of Blessing was led by Diocesan Liturgical Choir. Seminarian Chris De Frietas was Bishop George's Master of Ceremonies. Each room was blessed with holy water and crucifixes made from the wood of the original St Patrick's Cathedral were placed in each office and shared spaces.

In his introduction prior the Rite of Blessing, Bishop George highlighted the importance of the Centre in the life and mission of the diocese. The Pastoral Life and Mission Centre provides collaborative workspaces where clergy, apostolates and parish personnel can visit to collaborate and find support. Two rooms have been specifically dedicated to Saint Catherine of Siena and to Saint Carlo Acutis to emphasise the diocesan endeavour to build on the mission of the Church and to highlight the role of our young people as the bearers of the church's future respectively. Both spaces are available for bookings by groups working within Pastoral Life and Mission.

Kerrie Merritt, Chancellor, announced the appointment of Aaron Faure as the new Lead of Pastoral Life and Mission for the Diocese of Bunbury. In reply, Aaron extended an open invitation to all: "This Centre is a place of welcome and collaboration. A place where all can come together and contribute to the Pastoral Life and Mission of the Diocese." Aaron previously served as the Youth Director and the Evangelisation Coordinator for the Diocese of Bunbury.

Bishop George has appointed Janet O'Hare as his Executive Assistant. Behind her appointment Janet has been serving the Diocese of Bunbury for the last 18 years as the Bishop's Secretary. She has a wealth of experience being part of major diocesan projects such as the Dedication of Saint Patrick's Cathedral and the Episcopal Ordination and Installation Steering Committee for Bishop George. When asked to describe her role, Janet stated that "I am very involved in the day-to-day work of Bishop George. He is very busy, yet his door is always open." Janet continued, "I genuinely feel the Bunbury Diocese has a 'skip in its step', a 'smile on its face' and a 'glow in its heart'...Bishop George has a vision (many of them!) and its contagious."

The Pastoral Life and Mission Centre is open Monday to Thursday, 9:30am – 4:30pm. Short courses are available at the Centre with a vision towards regular courses and formation opportunities. The first course is entitled "Synodality for Parish Pastoral Councils" and seeks to empower Parish Pastoral Council members to become increasingly synodal in their practice and function. The course will focus on the importance of listening, conversations in the spirit, co-responsibility and discernment for leaders.

The Pastoral Life and Mission Centre is the result of the vision, planning and work of Bishop George, the Episcopal Council and the Diocesan Chancery staff. It marks a significant new direction in the continuation of our journey as missionary and synodal

disciples in our church today. The doors of the Centre are open and looks forward to warmly welcoming all visitors.