



# LEGACY

## Diocesan Pastoral Council

### **PAST ATTEMPTS AT A DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL - OUR LEGACY**

The Archdiocese first formed a pastoral council in 1957 under Archbishop Eris O'Brien; other iterations were formed by Archbishops Cahill and Carroll, while Archbishop Coleridge preferred a series of assemblies. These had a variety of forms and expressed both the needs and the resources of the Archdiocese in each time.

The Archdiocesan Synod of 1989, *Coming Home in Christ*, was tasked to "listen to what the Spirit is saying to us today" and gave rise to a Pastoral Planning Committee to implement the efforts of the Archdiocesan Church's efforts to answer the challenges of the Second Vatican Council.

We have much to celebrate as a local Church in and through the work of the Diocesan Pastoral Councils – it is now an appropriate time to refound such a body to assist in the ongoing governance of the Church in the Archdiocese.

The Working Party will consider our legacy – what needs to be acknowledged and celebrated? What needs to be learned? In this phase of their work they will consider a variety of documents and research including our archives relating to Archdiocesan Pastoral Councils; the accounts of the two Synods since the Second Vatican Council and a history of Diocesan Pastoral Councils in Australia developed for the Bishops Conference.