



# DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY 2009



**Date:** 28 April 2009

**To:** Priests, Religious Congregations, The Director of Catholic Education, Assistant to Director DCEO - Mission, Principals, APREs, School Boards, P & F Associations, Diocesan Pastoral Council, Pastoral Councils, Parish Workers, Adult Faith Coordinators, Religion in State School Coordinators, Diocesan Financial Services, Mercy Health & Aged Care, Catholic Women's League, Diocesan Pastoral Services, Social Justice Committee, Vocations Officer, Commission for Ecumenism & Interfaith, Commission for Environmental Awareness, Diocesan Liturgical Commission, Diocesan Education Council, Centacare Bundaberg Mater Hospital, Students of Certificate IV Pastoral Liturgy.

**FROM:** Margaret Hallinan, Coordinator

**RE:** Diocesan Assembly

The Assembly Task force met on April 20, 2009.  
The following is a summary of the meeting:

**Graduation Certificate four in Pastoral Liturgy:** As indicated in communiqué 2 this ceremony will take place at the Assembly. Three of the lecturers who have played a major role in presenting this course over the last five years will be present for the Graduation. They are Sister Ursula's O'Rourke, Sister Elizabeth Brennan and Erica Marshall.

**A Call to Assembly:** The first of the preparation material '**Hospitality**' for the Assembly will be forwarded to all communities hopefully week beginning 5 May. Thanks to Joe McCorley for preparing this material.

**Keynote Speakers Input:** The meeting brainstormed some ideas that maybe of some help to the keynote speakers Father John Chalmers and Mrs Mary Loch. This material was forwarded to the presenters for their consideration. The keynote speakers will be joining the June meeting to elaborate on their input.

*"This is why I am  
reminding you to  
fan into a flame the  
gift that God gave  
you ... ..  
God's gift was not  
a spirit of timidity,  
but the Spirit of  
power, and love,  
and self-control."*

*( 2 Timothy 1: 6 -8)*



**Facilitator:** Father Kevin Hennessy, the Assembly facilitator, will also be present at the June Task force meeting. Please find below some information about Father Kevin. Information on the keynote presenters will be forwarded in the May communiqué.

Fr Kevin Hennessy CP has been a Passionist Priest for 33 years. He has worked in seven countries giving retreats and seminars, and facilitating meetings for Religious Congregations and Dioceses. He spent over 22 years in leadership in his Congregation in Formation for Religious Life and Leadership on a National and Local Level.

Fr Kevin still travels a great deal and as we write is working in Mindano in the Southern parts of the Philippines. He spent 11 years in Papua New Guinea and for a few years represented the Major Superiors in trying to bring justice and understanding in different situations of Government and Church. At present he is stationed in Melbourne, working mainly in Australia and New Zealand and is the Vocation Coordinator for his Congregation. He enjoys his Passionist life and priesthood helping the local church face the questions of change within a spiritual context.

**Workshops:** Time was taken at this meeting to look at possibilities for workshops that will enable an outcome to emerge. These outcomes will form the basis of the final statement at the Assembly –“**How can the Diocese of Rockhampton go forward as a Diocese in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**”? At this stage there will be approximately 14 workshops and participants will be given the opportunity to choose which workshops they wish to attend. Letters will be forwarded to possible presenters and by the May meeting the workshops and presenters will be finalised and these will be forwarded in communiqué 4. The presenters of the workshops will come together with the **Taskforce on 9 June for a briefing session to ensure all are comfortable with the task.**

**Role of the Priests into the future:** Father Brian informed the meeting that Father John Chalmers will facilitate a day for the priests on **4 June.**

**Forum for Religious:** As indicated earlier this day will be held **on 20 May.** The facilitator for this day is Coralie Kingston, Executive Officer Mission Integration, Mercy Health and Aged Care Central Queensland. The outcome of this day will be to draw together a focus for a workshop at the Assembly

**Assembly Song:** Thanks to those who have submitted a suggested song for the Assembly. There have been a couple of late enquiries so the outcome will not be known until after **18 May.**

**The next task force meeting will be held on 18 May**

**Reminder: As the contact person within your community/agency the Taskforce would appreciate that these communiqués are shared with those within your responsibility.**

**May the Spirit continue to remind each of us to fan into a flame the gift that God gave to each of us.**