



The Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn Catholic Women's Taskforce met for the first time in October 2019. Office bearers were elected, and Communication, Service and Advocacy were identified as the focus areas.

Initially support for the group was provided by Sr Clare Condon and Andrea Dean as ex-officio members. With the closure of the national Office for the Participation of Women Andrea became a member of the group in February 2020.

The beautiful logo and letterhead in purple, green and antique white, featuring a water jar, cross and the Spirit was completed in February.

A breakfast celebration for International Women's Day in March highlighted the impact of the bushfires on the region and raised funds for outreach to families in rural areas.

To facilitate cooperation with agencies in the Archdiocese, all the decision-making groups were identified.

Work continued on the website and was operational by July with links to the Archdiocesan site.

Three articles on Women in Scripture, Lydia, Phoebe and Junia, were contributed to The Daily Voice as a way of highlighting the role of women in the early Church.

The chair of the Taskforce met with Archbishop a number of times and letters were exchanged on topics of concern to the Taskforce including the closure of the Office for the Participation of Women and the selection of delegates to the Plenary Council.

The Executive Secretary of the Commission for Evangelisation, Laity & Youth (ACBC), Clara Geoghegan met with the Taskforce via Zoom in June.

In August a letter was sent to all parishes to inform parishioners of the establishment of the Taskforce and of the Archbishop's endorsement for the group.

During the Covid 19 shutdown, a series of Zoom Taskforce meetings were held. Events that were planned for regional area were adjusted and two reflection afternoons were hosted instead in August and November. The first reflection afternoon introduced various spirituality groups in the Archdiocese and the second focused on themes from Laudate Si. Both events were well attended.

An informal network of the women chairpersons of Archdiocesan Parish Pastoral Councils was established and met for the first time in December at Holy Spirit Parish, Gungahlin.

A review of the first year of operation of the Taskforce resulted in a more refined statement of purpose, the election of office bearers and the development of a detailed plan for 2021.

Special thanks go to the Chair, Lara Kirk, Deputy Chair, Genevieve Colbert, Treasurer, Selina Stanford, Secretary and Elizabeth Doherty, Communications Office for ensuring that targets were met, collaboration was fostered, and that the Taskforce made such great progress in a difficult year.