

LITURGY FORMATION SESSIONS

Liturgy Formation Days held by the Diocesan Liturgical Commission have continued in the Diocese for 2015. The first day was held in the Wendouree Parish on July 12 and the most recent day was in Colac on July 19. The final session will be held in East Warrnambool on August 9.

These days began with Mass celebrated by Bishop Paul Bird. On behalf of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, participants were welcomed to the day. Bishop Paul then began with an introduction to liturgy. Discussion was invited and the group were encouraged to share their experiences and thoughts. After Bishop Paul's introduction to the liturgy all gathered to enjoy lunch supplied by the respective parishes.

The afternoon offered a choice of two out of the four workshops which again included: Formation for leaders of Sunday Assemblies of Word and Communion presented by Bishop Paul. In this workshop participants looked at the value of coming together as a community to hear the Word of God and receive Communion, as well as practical resources to help those who lead the Sunday Assemblies; Formation for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion presented by Fr Justin Driscoll, this workshop considered the development of ministers who assist with the distribution of Holy Communion in the diocese and included theological and practical information for the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion; Music in the Liturgy was presented by Susan Crowe. Participants explored acclamations, responses, psalms and hymns which can be used in liturgies to encourage the full, conscious and active participation of the Assembly; and Scripture in the Liturgy presented by Fr John McKinnon which covered topics such as *Reading or Ministering the Word? What makes the difference, How and what does God communicate through the Scriptures* and *Can I always believe what the text seems to be saying*.

After these workshops, which were described as refreshing and practical, the groups joined together for a plenary session led by Fr Justin Driscoll. Feedback from the day was positive. Participants commented on the importance of these sessions, which provided formation for the significant roles people play in the different parishes. It was said that it was great to gather and have a sense of community. Another comment was that it was hard to decide which workshop to attend, wish we could go to all. A big thank you to the Diocesan Liturgical Commission for organising these sessions.

The days were concluded with evening prayer and singing, led by Bishop Paul. Thank you to the Parishes of Wendouree and Colac for hosting these days.



Above: Wendouree Parish

Below: Colac Parish

