From January 12 to 16, Bishop Paul Bird and twenty-eight priests gathered at Halls Gap for the annual Ballarat Diocese Clergy Retreat.

Fr Mark Freeman, known to many from 1970’s and 80’s seminary days, addressed the gathering, drawing on Scripture, St Augustine and his own life experiences. His discussions and insights facilitated in setting a prayerful and reflective atmosphere for those assembling. Fr Mark is Parish Priest in Launceston, as well as being Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Hobart. He is also the Director of Clergy Life and Ministry in the Archdiocese.

The week was helped by being cooler than recent years and not having to be evacuated at the end of the week by an encroaching bushfire as we were last year was advantageous.

Fr John Monaghan