

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offers the opportunity for lay workers (paid or volunteer) to:

- ♦ study individual subject/s or
- ♦ study six subjects to complete a Certificate course

Ballarat Diocese offers two certificates:

- ♦ Certificate in Pastoral Ministry
- ♦ Certificate in Youth and Young Adult Ministry

A Certificate should be completed within two years. Those who choose to start with individual subjects may transfer to a Certificate course. Completion of subject/s or Certificate, together with associated participation in local formation gatherings, will be certified by the Diocese.

(refer to the Subject Study Structure for more details on Certificates)

Financial details

The Ballarat Diocese is a VLCFF partner with Dayton University, so subject costs are discounted. The current per subject fee is \$US50 (approx \$AUD70) for Diocesan participants. Each participant pays this at the start of each subject. There may be additional participation fees for retreats and formation gatherings.

Ballarat Diocese reserves the right to not allow students to undertake or continue a Certificate or other participation in the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program.

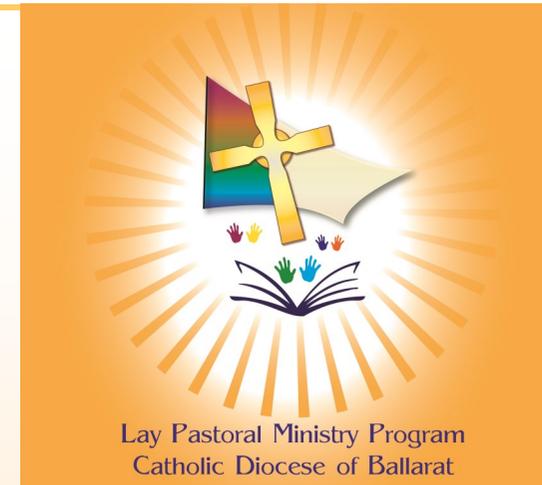
More information is available on the Ballarat Diocese website: www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

or contact Amanda Smith,
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Diocese of Ballarat Lay Pastoral Ministry Program

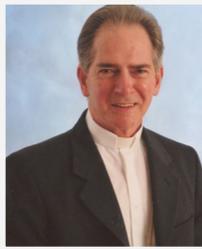
**Opportunities for formation, support,
study and certification
for lay pastoral employees and volunteers
in the Ballarat Diocese**
in partnership with
the Virtual Learning Community,
Dayton University.

*Subjects are available in a wide range of topics including
sacraments, youth ministry, scripture, social justice,
leadership, catechesis, pastoral care, and liturgy.*



Dear Friends,

I am most grateful for the wonderful ministries of so many people throughout the Diocese and I am delighted that we now have a ministry training program that is accessible to everyone. I invite you to make use of this training to develop your skills in ministry.



God bless you all,
Paul Bird CSsR, Bishop of Ballarat

Multi-faceted Lay Pastoral Ministry Program

- ◆ Opportunities for individuals and parishes to discern pathways for developing lay ministry skills.
- ◆ Opportunities for lay workers, both paid and volunteer, to enhance their skills through formation and study.
- ◆ Opportunities for lay people to undertake a program of formation and study that is certified by the Diocese.
- ◆ As part of the study program, opportunities for local formation, attendance at retreats and other gatherings.
- ◆ Access to hard copies of study texts.
- ◆ Opportunities for informal support and networking amongst lay workers.
- ◆ Guidance for those who wish to explore further study, for example in theology or in specialised hospital or aged care ministry studies (through other course providers).
- ◆ Practical support for parishes and individuals regarding paid and volunteer roles. This includes templates of position descriptions, salary levels, employment documents, and templates and guidelines for volunteer workers.

Lay Pastoral Ministry Program

The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program is an initiative emerging from the Diocese of Ballarat's *Looking Forward* pastoral planning process, facilitated by the Bishop's Advisory Council.

The *Looking Forward* Resource Document 2014 details a number of objectives under the heading "What can be done now to prepare well for the future", one of which is "The Diocese to initiate and share programs to develop skills and formation of lay people" (p.17).

Details of study opportunities

The Diocese of Ballarat is one of seventy-five dioceses world-wide that are partnered with the Institute for Pastoral Initiatives at the University of Dayton, USA in their Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation (VLCFF).

This opportunity to study is available to anyone (18+ years) within the Ballarat Diocese.

Dayton's Virtual Learning Community for Faith Formation offers a wide range of subjects delivered as online courses of five weeks duration. There are six teaching cycles per year. Areas of study include Liturgy, Sacraments & RCIA, Prayer, Leadership, Scripture, Church History, Social Justice, Pastoral Care, and Youth Ministry. You choose your own study pathway or subjects, selected in consultation with the Facilitator of the Diocesan Lay Pastoral Ministry Program.

You can see more information on these documents that are downloadable from the Diocesan website:

- List of subjects available for online study
- Certificate Course or Subject study structure
- Frequently Asked Questions

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au