

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of
BALLARAT



Our vision for Ballarat Diocese

You are invited to be part of
a process of consultation
to find words to express
a common vision for our Diocese

This document will assist you
to participate in the consultation process

We ask your parish or group to submit
your summary words and phrases by
Monday 15th July 2019

This consultative process
has been initiated by Bishop Paul Bird
and the Bishop's Advisory Council
with a view to launching
a statement of our Diocesan Vision
in December 2019

What is a Vision Statement?

A Vision Statement is a short statement that inspires
by naming our hopes for the future.

The Diocesan Vision Statement will complement and lead into the
Diocesan Mission, the statement of what we do to enact our vision.

The Diocese has a Mission Statement (on next page)

Parishes, Diocesan entities, groups, and communities are asked to gather
and reflect upon and discuss your hopes.

Together you are asked:

- To read and reflect on all the material in this focus document
- To consider what is your vision or hope for the diocese?
- To identify 3-4 words, phrases or sentences that capture something of your vision and hope for the diocese
Please note we are not asking you to write the finished Diocesan Vision Statement. We are looking for 'key' words or phrases.
- To discuss these and distill and agree on your response as much as possible before submitting. Aim for maximum of 5 words/phrases.
- To record those words/phrases and email them to the Bishop's Advisory Council by Monday 15 July 2019.

You are encouraged to respond as a whole group where possible, for example, as 'whole of parish' or parish pastoral council, or diocesan committee or council. If you are not able to respond as part of a group, you can submit an individual response.

When your parish or group has settled on your words or phrases (this may take a few meetings) please email them to:

bac@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Please include the following in your email:

- Name of your group (& location)
- Up to 5 key words or phrases

More information is on the diocesan website
www.ballarat.catholic.org.au or contact email address above.

Once the Diocesan Vision Statement is drafted,
there will be an opportunity for community feedback and fine-tuning
before it is launched by Bishop Paul.

The Diocese of Ballarat

Mission

The Diocese of Ballarat, through the work of all its people:

- ❖ gathers the people of God in worship through its parishes and within its boundaries
- ❖ gives witness to the teachings of Jesus
- ❖ proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ
- ❖ reflects the sacramentality of all things, especially by the giving and receiving of the Sacraments of our faith
- ❖ catechises the faithful and those new to faith
- ❖ oversees the teaching of children in its schools through the work of the Ballarat Catholic Education Office
- ❖ serves those in need especially through the diocesan agency Centacare
- ❖ advocates for social justice
- ❖ communicates with the faithful and the wider community and takes part in ecumenical and interfaith dialogue
- ❖ enables the work of many groups, commissions and agencies connected to the diocese through a common faith in Jesus Christ and commitment to his mission
- ❖ administers the temporal goods of the diocese with care and integrity
- ❖ evangelises and reaches out towards those who are searching for meaning and faith

Scripture and other words to assist the process of reflection

These verses may resonate with you, or you may use other scripture texts or quotes to spark your thoughts about a common vision for the diocese.

'Who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? But I am among you as one who serves.' Luke 22:27

'Remain in me as I remain in you ... I am the vine, you are the branches.' John 15:4

'They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?' Luke 24:32

'Then they told what had happened on the road, and how Jesus had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.' Luke 24:35

'Every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of God is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.' Matthew 13:52

'No one puts new wine into old wineskins ... one puts new wine into fresh wineskins.' Mark 2:22

'For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith.' Romans 1:16

'Let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.' Revelation 22: 17

From Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel*:

The salvation which God offers us is the work of his mercy. ... He sends his Spirit into our hearts, ... transforming us and enabling us to respond to his love by our lives.

The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration. ... It is a community of communities, a sanctuary where the thirsty come to drink in the midst of their journey, and a centre of constant missionary outreach.

The joy in communicating Jesus Christ is expressed both by a concern to preach him to areas in greater need and in constantly going forth to the outskirts of its own territory or towards new sociocultural settings. ... To make this missionary impulse ever more focused, generous and fruitful, I encourage each particular Church to undertake a resolute process of discernment, purification and reform.

Prayer in time of change

Loving God, we thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ,
who showed us the way, the truth and the life.

As we continue our journey as people of faith,
help us to be people of wisdom and courage.

During these times of change,
show us the way to strengthen our communities,
to share the joy of your love, and to see Christ in all people.

We make our prayer through Jesus, our saviour and brother. Amen.