



# BALLARAT DIOCESAN SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMISSION

Summary report of meeting November 2015

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The members of the Social Justice Commission met on Saturday, November 14. Held in the Cathedral Hall the day commenced with Fr Frank Smith leading the members in formation with a focus on what is mercy/charity through to what is social justice. Fr Frank draws on twenty-two years of experience ministering to Australia's poor and the formation involved Jemimah and Nyjal to enact a mime communicating ten ways to assist in the understanding of where we as individuals and/or communities, are in relation to the poor. Images below show the enactment of some of the ways of relating to the poor and how we may come to deepen our understanding of mercy and social justice.

Other matters the Commission addressed included:

A proposal to commence a two year trial project with a small group of parishes from next year concerning the formation of Social Justice Groups.

A forum is being proposed for 2016 and the theme being considered is "Family Relationships". This follows the successful forum on Refugees in June 2015 and on Domestic Violence in 2014.

An article concerning an alleged breach of the Tasmanian Anti-Discrimination Act by the Archbishop of Hobart in distributing a booklet "Don't Mess with Marriage" and the ramifications of that Act for promotion of Catholic teaching and Freedom of Speech was noted.

The Commission would love to hear and promote what is happening in parishes and schools in the area of social justice. You can contact us with your concerns, your strategies and your successes.

We thank Bill Slatter and Christina Symons for their commitment to the Commission and are now seeking expressions of interest from persons who wish to become a member of the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission. Please contact the Bishop's Office next month for more information on 5337 7121. The meeting dates for next year are February 27, May 14, August 27 and November 12.

*Jim Ryan – Chairman*

Email: [social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:social.justice@ballarat.catholic.org.au)



Way one: Little or no awareness of the poor



Way eight: Sharing the perspective of the poor



Way ten: Elimination of poverty and sharing of resources