

CATHEDRAL PARISH EXPO

On the weekend of November 17 – 18, the Cathedral Parish Ballarat Pastoral Council hosted a Parish Expo that was held in the Cathedral Hall. Facilitated by the Parish Pastoral Council, all groups, ministries and organisations within the Cathedral Parish were invited to participate in the Parish Expo. The aim



of the Expo was to celebrate and appreciate the ministry of so many within the Cathedral Parish and to inform parishioners of the scope of the mission of the local Church. Almost forty exhibits formed the Expo with much creativity evident in the displays, which were open to parishioners to view in the hall after each of the four weekend Masses. After the 6.30pm Saturday evening Vigil Mass, the St Patrick's Choir performed on the stage in the hall much to the delight of those in attendance.



A commitment was made by those who prepared each of the exhibits to not only provide printed information about their group, ministry or organisation, but also to have at least one person from that group present to answer questions and provide further information. The response from parishioners was overwhelmingly positive and the Expo provided many parishioners with the opportunity to meet and talk over a cuppa. The groups included our YESS (Youth Every Second Sunday), Alpha Adult Faith Formation, Sacramental preparation, Life in the Spirit Charismatic Prayer Group, Liturgy team, Finance Committee, Family Groups, Cathedral Environment and precinct group as well as many ministries such as the RCIA, Communion to the sick and

homebound, Pastoral Care, Choirs and also organisations within the parish that included the three Parish Primary Schools – St Patrick's, St Thomas More and Siena, as well as Loreto College and St Patrick's College, St John of God Hospital, St Vincent de Paul, Catholic Women's League, the Mountain of Praise, Young Vinnies, the Legion of Mary and the Christian Life Communities (CLC). The Parish Pastoral Council invited responses to the Plenary Council preparatory questions and is using the Plenary process to focus on some of our own local issues to ask what God is asking of us in the Cathedral Parish at this time.

Amongst the positive feedback received by the Parish Pastoral Council, Geoff Brodie, Mission Director at St Patrick's College wrote in their College newsletter "We may have started the weekend unsure of the meaning and value of the Expo, but left in no doubt. We need to be reminded what a difference the Church is making in so many areas of life. Witnesses to our faith are on the ground every day, offering assistance to whomever needs it. Friendship with Jesus motivates people to make the world more human. Friendship with Jesus is most richly lived in families."

Justin Driscoll, Administrator



