



# Diocesan e-News

## LITURGY FORMATION 2017

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission have presented three Liturgy Formation Sessions in the diocese this year and these events were hosted by the parishes of Colac (June 25), Ballarat Cathedral (July 9) and Warrnambool (July 23).

Presenters on these days were members of the Liturgical Commission: Funeral Ministry – Fr Gary Jones and Dr Peter Morris; Diocesan Sacraments of Initiation Program – Bishop Paul Bird, Noeline Hogan and Marie Harney; Formation for Lectors – Dr Susan Crowe and Sr Denise Desmarchelier. Noeline Hogan and Sr Denise were also MCs.

Bishop Paul celebrated Mass in these parishes prior to the sessions beginning. He then welcomed those present with an introduction to Liturgy and gave an overview of the revised Diocesan Sacraments of Initiation Program, “Let the Children Come”. After lunch, there were workshops with all three workshops being well attended and presented at each session. At the end of the day, there was a plenary session with an opportunity for discussion and feedback. The day closed with the Prayer of the Church.

The final Liturgy Formation Session with these topics will be presented in Horsham on February 25, 2018. Registration and information regarding this day is available from the diocesan website [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au).

Many thanks to all who supported the Liturgical Commission by their attendance at these days and to the presenters at each of these sessions.

Planning for 2018 Liturgy Formation sessions is underway!

### *Reports from Warrnambool:*

On Sunday, July 23 St Joseph’s Parish Warrnambool hosted Formation Sessions facilitated by members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission. Presenters for the day were Bishop Paul Bird, Sr Denise Demarchellier ibvm, Fr Gary Jones and Marie Harney. Bishop Paul gave a preliminary talk on the Eucharist, attended by all, followed by lunch. During the afternoon session workshops were conducted for Lectors, Funeral Ministry and the Diocesan Sacramental Program ‘Let the Children Come’. Attendees from local parishes appreciated the input and the resources presented.

These days give those already involved in these ministries a sense of reassurance and guidance, and for others appreciating the formation, so as to become involved in the above ministries for the life of the parish.

*Leanne McElgunn  
St Joseph’s Parish, Warrnambool*

On Sunday, July 23, a day in service on Liturgy provided by the Diocesan Liturgy Committee was held at St Joseph's Parish, Warrnambool. Having been unable to attend the similar program held at St Mary's Parish, Colac, Mary and I motored to Warrnambool for this session. As we made our way we were assailed by what must have been the heaviest downpour in months - non-stop rain from Cobden to Warrnambool!!!

However, we arrived safely and the day began with the Eucharistic celebration led by our Bishop, Paul Bird, and Fr John Fitzgerald. A very prayerful and meaningful liturgy:

- Well rehearsed readers and leaders who proclaimed the Word with great clarity;
- Much participation from the congregation;
- At reflection time Mary Lancaster had prepared a well-ordered slide display of various ministries being performed in the parish. The hymn playing all the while in the background was "The Summons" – 'Will you come and follow me if I but call your name'!!

After a welcome 'cuppa' and some catching up with old and new friends we were treated by words of wisdom from the appointed speakers for the day – Bishop Paul Bird, Fr Gary Jones, Mrs Marie Harney and Sr Denise Desmarchelier ibvm.

Bishop Paul gave the opening address, drawing our attention to the celebration of the Eucharist. He particularly highlighted that the Mass is a time to give glory and praise to God and then to receive and give peace. "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth."

A delicious lunch was then served and enjoyed and appreciated by all. After lunch, attendees were invited to opt for a particular workshop:-

**Readers/lectors workshop led by Sr Denise.** Readers received great encouragement to carry out this important and privileged ministry. We were advised to prepare and know the text thoroughly and to read the passage in its context. Many further helpful tips for preparing and effectively proclaiming the Word were included on the handouts.

**"Funeral Ministry" led by Fr Gary Jones.** This was a very informative session on the various forms of funeral liturgies. They included the Requiem Mass, the Crematorium Prayers and Funeral Rites at the Graveside and the Vigil Prayers. Very useful directions and aids were given to assist Parish Bereavement Ministry Teams in planning ways of making each occasion one of prayerful liturgy. Fr Gary also pointed out ways to access the diocesan website to find helpful readings and prayers. Good suggestions also for eulogies, keeping them relevant and compact!

Those who attended this workshop were very appreciative of the information given by Fr Gary.

**Diocesan Sacramental Program "Let the Children Come" led by Marie Harney and Bishop Paul.** We were introduced to the newly revised publication for the Sacraments of Initiation. Marie explained how the program is family based, parish coordinated and school supported. The booklets come with clear guidelines for the parents and these give the parents confidence to sit with their children and learn about their faith and the sacramental life of the church – a precious opportunity for parents to come to a clearer understanding of their faith. Another off-spin is that parents can spend quality time with their children as they fulfill their Baptism promise to hand on the faith to their children.

The day concluded with Evening Prayer of the Church. To sum up a very supportive and profitable day of learning in a warm friendly ambience. Thanks to all concerned for the organisation of the day. By the way the downpour commenced again as we left Warrnambool and stayed with us as far as Panmure!! Physical rain on the earth and but a spiritual rain of blessings on us!

*Clare Arundell and Mary Doran*