



# Diocesan e-News

## PASTORAL MINISTRY OFFICE 2017

During 2017 the Pastoral Ministry Office has continued to assist and resource people of the diocese in the areas of liturgy, communications and the website.

“Our Diocesan Community”, published three times per year, has again received very positive feedback from its readers and will continue next year to promote the good news of the diocese. The fortnightly e-news publication helps us communicate the stories of the diocese on a more regular basis, along with the news section of the diocesan website.

Many thanks to those who have contributed articles and photos to these publications. We hope you continue to do so in 2018 and invite others to contribute the news of their parish, school or agency (email [enews@ballarat.catholic.org.au](mailto:enews@ballarat.catholic.org.au)).

Thanks also to the members of the ODC Editorial Committee for their guidance and assistance in producing this magazine and to the Catholic Development Fund, Catholic Education Office, ACU – Ballarat Campus and Catholic Super for their support.

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission has hosted three formation sessions this year at Colac, Ballarat Cathedral and Warrnambool in the areas of Funeral Ministry, Formation for Lectors and the Diocesan Sacraments of Initiation Program “Let the Children Come” (the final presentation for this round will be held at Horsham on February 25, 2018). Members of the Commission volunteer their time to facilitate these sessions, which is very much appreciated by the diocese. Planning for the next two year cycle of Liturgy Formation sessions is underway and information will be available from the diocesan website.

The Commission has also updated two policies this year, “Policy for Altar Servers” and “Guidelines for the use of Visual Display Systems in Liturgical Celebrations”. These updated policies will be published early in the new year. The Commission also oversees the co-ordination of the Rite of Election, Mass of the Oils, clergy funerals and the Diocesan Sacramental preparation programs.

We also continue to promote the use of the diocesan website. The website has two sections, the public website and an area for members. Members of the website are able to access diocesan resources such as Lay Led Assembly materials, finance and administration resources, liturgical policies, diocesan policies and procedures and much more. Registration for the member’s area of the website is available at [www.ballarat.catholic.org.au](http://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au).

Thank you to the people of the diocese in supporting the work of the Office. We wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and look forward to working with you again in 2018.

*Jane Collins, Julie Boyd & Fran Peterkin.*