



Bishop's Office
5 Lyons Street South
Ballarat VIC 3350

P.O. Box 121
Ballarat VIC 3353

Phone: (03) 5337 7121
Fax: (03) 5332 1122

E-mail: bishopsoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au

September 23, 2019

Dear Friends,

Earlier this year I invited groups and individuals within our diocese to send in suggestions for a Diocesan Vision Statement – a short statement that would inspire us by describing the kind of community we hope to be. We received suggestions from 17 groups around the diocese as well as from individuals. The Bishop's Advisory Council considered all these suggestions at our August meeting and formulated a Diocesan Vision Statement that reflects what we saw as key points in the suggestions received.

We are aware that the process of the Australian Plenary Council has included reflections that touch on our vision of our Church community. We are also aware that our vision will be further enhanced by the listening and discernment gatherings in the coming months and the discussions during the sessions of the Plenary Council in 2020 and 2021. However, the Bishop's Advisory Council believes that it would still be useful to publish an updated version of our Diocesan Vision Statement this year. Such a statement could help to clarify our vision for the life of our diocesan community at present and could also contribute to the vision that will be developed through the Plenary Council process over the next couple of years.

Following is the vision Statement as recently formulated by the Bishop's Advisory Council. As you will see, this includes a four-line statement plus a text from Scripture.

Catholic Diocese of Ballarat, Vision Statement 2019

*We are a community of communities from the Murray to the sea,
inspired by the Gospel and nourished by the Eucharist
to follow the example of Jesus' humble service,
so that all may find welcome, hope and joy.*

*"Let everyone who is thirsty, come. Let anyone who wishes
take the water of life as a gift." (Revelation 22:17)*

I would welcome any reflections you might have on this statement. Please send any comments to Fran Peterkin at fran.peterkin@ballarat.catholic.org.au by October 31. The Bishop's Advisory Council will consider these comments at our meeting in November. God bless you all.

Yours in Christ,

Paul Bird CSSR

Bishop of Ballarat