

CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE  
of  
BALLARAT



**Ballarat Diocese  
Social Justice Commission**

**Report of Meeting**  
Saturday, 1 August, 2020

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission met for a two hour meeting via Zoom on Saturday 1 August, 2020.

Attending were Anthea Hinchey (chair), Bishop Paul Bird, Stacey Atkins, Sue Searls, Tony Fitzgerald, Noel Gregory, Jo Rix, Sr. Helen Nolen, Jim Ryan. Andrew O’Flynn and Executive Secretary: Dr Rachel Smith. Apologies were received by Felicity Liston.

Sr Helen prepared and led prayer based on the environment and the two rivers.

The Commission discussed several issues in depth and determined actions to follow these discussions.

Rachel and Noel attended the information session about this year’s Social Justice statement at a webinar. At the end of August the Commission will launch the Australian Bishops’ Social Justice statement for 2020. Titled: “ To Live Life to the Full: Mental health in Australia today “ It is particularly relevant to how people can be affected when coping with COVID 19. It is hoped that a podcast will be available for people to tune into as well as accessing it on-line.

The Commission is concerned with the lack of natural justice being denied Bernard Collaery and have decided to address this with local members of Parliament by writing to them.

Zali Steggal is planning to introduce a Private Member’s Bill to regarding the environment to Parliament at the November sitting. The Commission has sent information to Parishes and schools on how to support this important Bill. The Commission noted that the responses of Parishes and schools varied and hoped that a further reminder would engage people into the simple action of signing an on-line petition once.

We thank Bishop Paul for hosting the meeting and Rachel for all her work behind the scenes.