

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of
BALLARAT



**Ballarat Diocese
Social Justice Commission**

Report of Meeting
Saturday, 13 June, 2020

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission met for a two hour meeting via Zoom on Saturday 13 June, 2020.

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

Sue prepared and led prayer based on Laudate Si fifth anniversary prayers.

The Commission discussed the impact of COVID 19 regulations on the forward planning for the Commission.

Several plans have been put on hold temporarily until it is safe to gather again. One of these is the planned Climate Change/ Environment Forum. This will proceed at a future date and will include on-line conferencing options.

The launch of the Bishops' Social Justice statement is eagerly awaited as the topic is mental health.

The Commission discussed a proposed Private Member's Bill hopefully to be read in Parliament in November. Zali Steggal is presenting the Bill on the topic of Climate Change. There is an on-line petition supporting this Bill and the Commission will be asking for your support of this closer to the date.

Rachel is helping developing a guideline for staffrooms on ethically sourced morning teas.

Future topics that the Commission will be discussing include: Murray- Darling Water use and impact, Aboriginal issues, and mental health issues.

Next meeting will be August 1.

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