



Ballarat Diocese Social Justice Commission

Report of Meeting: Saturday, June 5, 2021

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission met via zoom on Saturday 5 June 2021.

Present: Anthea Hinchey (chair), Bishop Paul Bird, Sue Searls, Jim Ryan, Noel Gregory, Sr. Helen Nolen, Stacey Atkins and Executive Secretary: Dr Rachel Smith.

Apology: Felicity Liston

Absent: Andrew O'Flynn

After discussion during the March meeting a letter was drafted and sent to the Government regarding the follow-up support for men recently released from detention. A reply had been received via email. This was a form letter and described the minimal support offered. The Commission has decided to continue with further follow up on this issue.

The Commission congratulates St Patrick's College and Emmaus PS for receiving \$1000 Rerum Novarum Grant from the Archdiocese of Melbourne which has allowed the students to work together and plan to purchase and promote re-cycling bins for all Diocesan schools.

The Commissioners attend relevant meetings regarding Social Justice issues including environment (Catholic Earthcare), anti-slavery (ACRATH), and the Australian Catholic Social Justice Conference.

The Commission is busy planning for an ecology-based forum on November 6 that will reflect upon the Australian Bishops' statement and progress on Laudato Si,

The Commission sadly farewelled long term member Noel Gregory. Words of farewell included gratitude to Noel for 10 years of service, his contribution and level of thought provoking will be greatly missed. Noel kept us informed, honest and accountable.

BDSJC members are considering invitations for new members of the commission. Relevant organisations will be contacted and interest will be sought for future members. The commitment is four meetings a year and some extra work and the tenure is for three years.