

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of
BALLARAT



Social Justice Commission

Report of Meeting

Saturday, 21 August, 2021

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission met in person and via Zoom on Saturday 21 August 2021.

Present were Anthea Hinchey (chair), Bishop Paul Bird, Sue Searls, Jim Ryan, Felicity Liston, Hannah Scullion, and Executive Secretary: Dr Rachel Smith

Sr. Helen Nolen, Stacey Atkins, and Andrew O'Flynn came via Zoom.

No apologies were received.

Bishop Paul introduced Hannah as a newly appointed to the Commission and she was warmly welcomed by Anthea.

What was to be a full day meeting was dramatically shortened by the announcement of a State lockdown at 1:00pm.

The main issue of the meeting centered around the Australian Bishops Social Justice Statement of 2021 – Cry of the Earth, Cry of the Poor.

Dr Rachel Smith built our prayer around the importance of the document as a source for teaching and a center for prayer and action. The statement builds on the goals of the Papal encyclical *Laudato Si'*.

The Commission is planning a one-day forum on this topic and has set the date of November 6. The Commission is aiming for this to be a Diocesan-wide event using central gathering places around the Diocese and on-line communication. Keynote speakers have accepted the invitation and, if needed, will present their knowledge and learning on-line. The Commission is looking for dynamic support for this event.