

CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE  
of  
BALLARAT



**Ballarat Diocese  
Social Justice Commission**

**Report of Meeting  
Saturday, 12 March 2022**

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission met on Saturday 12 March 2022.

Present were Anthea Hinchey (chair), Bishop Paul Bird, Sue Searls, Sr. Helen Nolen, Jim Ryan and Stacey Atkins

Apologies were received by Andrew O'Flynn, Felicity Liston and Hannah Scullion.

Sr Helen Nolan led the prayer and reflection focusing on the Indigenous communities of the Tati Tati Wadi Wadi People and their deep cultural and spiritual connection to the waterways of the Murray Darling. Recent Government initiatives have ceded parts of this water catchment and flow back to the Tati Tati Wadi Wadi people. This initiative is the first of such in Australia. She reminded us that 22 March is International Water Day.

She also highlighted the work of RAOEN – River Above Asia and Oceania Ecclesial Network. You might like to learn more by connecting to [Home - River Above Asia and Oceania Ecclesial Network \(raoen.org\)](https://www.raoen.org) and [www.kaiejn.org.au](http://www.kaiejn.org.au)

The Commission wants to connect with all Social Justice groups in the Diocese and will be sending a letter to Parish Councils in the Diocese asking for a nominee to whom the Commission can directly communicate with.

The Commission endorses the Palm Sunday Marches for Refugees taking place in Melbourne and Ballarat and invites all Diocesan members to join these Marches.

The Commission is seeking ideas for Parishes and Schools to follow up the challenges of last year's Bishops' Social Justice Statement Cry of the Earth: Cry of the Poor and Laudato Si.

The Commission is planning a Diocesan wide release for this year's statement in August or September.