

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of
BALLARAT



**Ballarat Diocese
Social Justice Commission**

**Report of Meeting
Saturday, 4 June 2022**

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission met on Saturday 4 June 2022

Present were Anthea Hinchey (chair), Bishop Paul Bird, Sue Searls, Jim Ryan, Felicity Liston, Hannah Scullion, Sr. Helen Nolen,

Apologies were received by Stacey Atkins, Andrew O'Flynn,

The Bishop welcomed Jillian Hogbin to the Commission as Jillian is Diocesan co-ordinator for Caritas and Catholic Earthcare.

Sue and Anthea led the prayer and formation inviting us to reflect on the message of Laudato Si and the 20th anniversary of the foundation of Catholic Earthcare.

The Commission is developing a list of responses we can make to Laudato Si to address the issue of climate change. Parishes will be invited to include these in the Parish notice sheet for parishioners to activate in their own homes.

The Commission wants to connect with all Social Justice groups in the Diocese and sent a letter to Parish Councils in the Diocese asking for a nominee to whom the Commission can directly communicate with. Several Parishes have responded and Commissioners will follow up with the Parishes who have not replied.

The Commission is planning a Diocesan wide release for this year's statement in August or September. This will be a video-link so all parishes can participate. The title of this year's statement is: Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse

The Commission reviewed its foundational documents and next meeting will formulate a Vision Statement for itself and review its role and mission statements.