

## **Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission Report of Meeting 8 September 2018**

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission met 8 September 2018 at the Amalie Ozanam Hub which is a meeting room for the St Vincent de Paul Society. It is named for Amalie Ozanam, the wife of the founder of St Vincent de Paul Society, who continued the dream of her husband long after his death.

The Commission fed in to the Plenary Council preparation and were delighted that the Plenary Council facilitator Lana Turvey-Collins would be visiting the Diocese in October.

Since the last meeting members have been involved in writing letters of concern to politicians, sending flyers promoting social justice to schools, planning the promotion of the Bishops' Social Justice statement on homelessness due for release shortly, working on the growing responses to the online survey sent to Parishes, working with the Arch-Diocese Anti Slavery task force.

Currently there are vacancies on the Commission and the members made recommendations to the Bishop as to who might be suitable people to fill these places.

The Commission received a small bequest from the late Fr Paul Mercovich. Much discussion is yet to take place before the Commission makes recommendations to the Bishop about how it should best be used.

The Commission discussed what could be done to promote and support Catholic Earthcare and the need to continue to make people more aware and empowered regarding climate change.