

CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE  
of  
BALLARAT



**Ballarat Diocese  
Social Justice Commission**

**Report of Meeting  
Saturday, 20 August 2022**

The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission met on Saturday 20 August 2022

Present were Anthea Hinchey (chair), Bishop Paul Bird, Sue Searls, Jim Ryan, Felicity Liston, Sr. Helen Nolen, Stacey Atkins, Jillian Hogbin, Dr Susan Crowe (Executive Member)

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

The Bishop welcomed Dr Susan Crowe to the Commission as a liaison between the Social Justice Commission and Education and as Executive Member to the Commission.

Jillian and Felicity lead the prayer and reflection inviting the Commission to explore what is the vision and mission of the Commission and how best to write this. The Vision and Mission statements grow from the Diocesan Vision Statement. Over the next few months this will be drafted, consulted and refined so it can be accepted at the next meeting in November.

In light of this development, the Commission has decided to look at how it can improve its webpage. Several suggestions came forth, including fixing some spelling errors! You are invited to visit the webpage and see what changes are made.

The Commission continues to develop strategies of response to Laudato Si for Parish response. All Parishes have been invited to participate in an audit from Catholic Earthcare to see how they are meeting the seven Laudato Si goals.

The Commission is planning a Diocesan wide forum for this year's Bishops' Social Justice statement: Respect: Confronting Violence and Abuse on Saturday 1 October at 10:00 – 12:00. This will be a video-link so all parishes can participate in central hubs. There will be two guest speakers offering different understanding and viewpoints on this topic. One is from the Victorian Police and the other from CatholicCare. Information has been sent to Parishes and the Commission will continue to promote the forum and inform Parishes of how to register.