



Report from the Diocesan Liturgical Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Members in attendance were Bishop Paul Bird CSsR, Dr Susan Crowe, Mrs Gabrielle Ewing (via zoom), Mrs Cathy Prunty, Dr Chris Hadwen, Mr Geoff Martin and Mrs Julie Boyd (Administration Officer). Apologies were received from Fr Anthony Nagothu and Fr Gary Jones.

Membership: We welcomed two new members to the Commission - Mrs Cathy Prunty, Ballarat East parish and Dr Chris Hadwen, Maryborough Parish.

Mrs Christine Bulger tendered her resignation from the Commission. Bishop Paul acknowledged and thanked Christine for her valuable contribution during her time on the Commission.

Matters discussed from the previous meeting: The distribution of the Parent Sacramental Program to parishes; storage of diocesan vestments; and an update on the Sunday Lectionary to clergy and parishes.

Correspondence included clarification on the responsibility of liturgical formation for staff in Catholic schools. The Catholic Education Ballarat Catholic Mission and Identity team oversee liturgical formation for staff in Catholic Schools through the Education Officer: Liturgy. The continuing importance of the Education Officer: Liturgy role was discussed.

Reports:

Bishop Paul reported on matters from National Liturgical Council Meeting - a small working group on a national level are working on a liturgy for the closing of churches; information on the guidelines for inclusive language of the liturgy; discussions on communion following the easing of COVID restrictions - there will be no national ruling on continuing COVID restrictions and decisions will be made by each diocese; the Australian Pastoral Musicians Network and the National Liturgical Council joint conference, "Mystery & Mission: The Art of Liturgical Celebration."

General business:

Liturgical formation to be arranged for:

- Pastoral care of the sick and housebound for the South West Coast and Ballarat Cathedral parishes;
- Sunday Assembly of Word & Communion and scripture reflection for the Sunraysia region.

Rite of Election – Saturday, February 25, 2023.

Mass of the Oils – Monday, April 3, 2023.

Ministry of Lector and Ministry of Acolyte guidelines.

Documents for review includes the guidelines for the Sacrament of Reconciliation for Children and the Sacraments of Initiation for Children Policy Statement.

Policies/guidelines for review in 2023:

- Policy for Altar Servers.
- Guidelines for the use of Visual Display Systems in the Liturgy.
- Guidelines for Proper Care and Use of the Holy Oils.
- Ritual for the closure of a Church.

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission will meet again in May 2023.