



Report from the Diocesan Liturgical Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, November 15, 2022

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

Matters discussed from the previous meeting included the distribution of the Apostolic Letter *Desiderio Desideravi* of the Holy Father Francis to the Bishops, Priests and Deacons, to consecrated men and women and to the lay faithful on the liturgical formation of the people of God. The Commission also discussed the Parent Sacramental Program.

Reports:

Bishop Paul's report included information from the recent Australian Catholic Bishops Conference where the norms for the Ministry of Lector and the Ministry Acolyte were finalised for submission to the Holy See for approval. The Ministry of Acolyte and the Ministry of Lector are now open to women as well as men. Discussion regarding the implementation of these ministries in our diocese will continue, following the approval of the norms.

"Sing Assembly Sing: A day for all to explore the role of the Assembly in the Mass" was held in Ballarat on October 8, 2022. This day was hosted by the Ballarat Cathedral Parish. The Commission discussed the possibility of hosting a similar event in 2023 for all members of the diocese to attend.

Liturgy Formation at the South West Coast was a successful day thanks to those who attended, the presenters and parish staff. The program for the day included: An introduction by Bishop Paul based on the letter from Pope Francis on the liturgical formation of the People of God; a workshop on Sunday Assembly of Word & Communion presented by Dr Susan Crowe; and a workshop on scripture reflection presented by Fr John McKinnon.

Formation was discussed for 2023 and included a request for formation on pastoral care of the sick and housebound and further workshops on Sunday Assembly of Word & Communion and scripture reflection.

Events of the Liturgical Commission since the last meeting – Mass of Ordination to the Priesthood: Matthew Restall & William Lowry on July 22, 2022 and Fr Bill Melican's Funeral Mass on October 24, 2022

General business:

Advance notice of dates for the Rite of Election – Saturday, February 25, 2023 and the Mass of the Oils – Monday, April 3, 2023.

Storage of the diocesan vestments.

Update on the Sunday Lectionary: The new lectionary is currently in the early stages of the process and not yet ready for print. A meeting of representatives from Australia, Ireland and New Zealand is scheduled for February 2023. The translation is from the Revised New Jerusalem Bible.

Documents for review included the Diocesan Liturgical Commission Charter, which was approved. The Commission also discussed the guidelines for the Sacrament of Reconciliation for Children and the Sacraments of Initiation for Children Policy Statement.

To assist parishes in preparing children to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Commission will compile a list of suitable resources.

Commission membership: The Commission is currently seeking new members from all areas of the diocese. Membership is for an initial term of three (3) years with the option of two further terms (3 years per term). The Commission meets five times per year in Ballarat. Video linking facilities are available for meetings. All members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission must hold a current Working with Children check or VIT (Victorian Institute of Teaching) registration. The Charter of the Liturgical Commission is available from the diocesan [website](#).

“Stations of the Cross for Advent” Fr Gary Jones tabled this resource at the meeting and members agreed that it would be good to make this resource available for general use.

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission will meet again in January 2023.