



## Report from the Diocesan Liturgical Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023

---

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

**Membership:** Fr Anthony Nagothu will be leaving the Commission, as he is moving to the Oratorian Community in New York. We wish Fr Anthony well for this move.

### Matters discussed from the previous meeting:

- **Diocesan vestments:** An appropriate location has been found for the storage of the diocesan vestments.
- **Notes about Holy Communion:** Bishop Paul has issued the following information for people of the diocese:

*Now that the COVID pandemic is less in the news, a number of people have asked about arrangements for the reception of Holy Communion. Some have proposed reintroducing options that were permitted before the pandemic, particularly receiving the host on the tongue and sharing the chalice.*

*Over the past few weeks, I have consulted various people about this, including the members of our Diocesan Liturgical Commission. I have also received advice from a medical point of view. This has included advice from the Chief Executive Officer of the Southern Grampians Health Service and the Head of the Infectious Diseases Department at the Alfred Hospital. These consultations have highlighted the fact that COVID infections are still a serious concern and that we can reduce the risk of infections by continuing the present provisions regarding Holy Communion.*

*I have concluded that it is not yet time to reintroduce the sharing of the chalice. While reception of Holy Communion under both species of bread and wine is a fuller sign of our sharing in the banquet of Christ, we can find reassurance in the teaching of the Council of Trent that the whole Christ, body and blood, soul and divinity, is contained under each species. So, even when we simply receive the host, we are receiving the whole Christ.*

*In regard to the way of receiving the host, recognising the continuing risks of the pandemic, and out of consideration for the health of all parishioners, I recommend reverent reception of the host in the hand rather than reception on the tongue.*

*May our Communion draw us ever closer to Christ and strengthen our love and care for one another.*

*God bless you all. Bishop Paul*

**Correspondence** included clarification on the use of the response, “And with your Spirit” as printed in the Guidelines for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion on page 14. It was agreed that this response needs to be changed to, “And also with you”.

**Reports** - Bishop Paul’s report included:

- **An update on the new Lectionary:** The practicalities of putting the Lectionary together is taking a very long time and as a result, the new edition is at least three years away from being published.
- **Mystery & Mission: The Art of Liturgical Celebration Conference:** Registrations are now open for the National Liturgy and Liturgical Music Conference to be held at the Brisbane Hilton from September 28 – 30, 2023. International keynote presenters are Sarah Hart, one of the leading figures in contemporary Catholic music, and Dr Timothy O’Malley, professor of liturgical-sacramental theology and academic director of the Notre Dame Centre for Liturgy (USA). These international guests will be joined by acclaimed local presenters Rev Dr Tom Elich, liturgist and Director of Liturgy Brisbane, and Dr Maeve Louise Heaney VDMF, theologian and composer. In addition to these keynote presenters, there will be more than 50 workshops on offer across the three days. The full program of keynotes and workshops on available from the Conference website <https://mysteryandmission.com.au/>

**Rite of Election – February 25, 2023:** Went well again this year. The Rite provides an opportunity for catechumens and candidates to meet the Bishop and be welcomed at the diocesan Cathedral. Lunch following the Rite is also an important part of this day, as participants are able to meet others on a similar journey of faith.

Thank you to all those involved in preparing the candidates and catechumens and to those who assisted at the Cathedral on the day.

### **General Business:**

- ***Pastoral Formation Day - preparing and celebrating the sacraments of healing:***  
Planning and promotion continues for this day which will be held on Saturday, April 29, 2023 at the Glowrey Room, St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat, 3 Lyons Street South from 9.30am – 5.00pm <https://www.ballarat.catholic.org.au/pastoral-formation-day-in-ballarat/>
- ***Mass of the Oils - Monday, April 3, 2023:*** Planning for this Mass continues. School leaders from each of the diocesan secondary schools have been invited to participate. Two Altar Servers will be attending from St Mary MacKillop College Swan Hill. People of the diocese will be invited to participate in the ministries of the Mass.

**Documents for review** includes the guidelines for the Sacrament of Reconciliation for Children and the Sacraments of Initiation for Children Policy Statement. There was discussion regarding the consistency of language in these documents.

### **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.