



Report from the Diocesan Liturgical Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, August 1, 2023

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

Correspondence:

- The Liturgical Commission was successful in receiving a grant from the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat Foundation to replace missing clergy vestments.
- The Parish Sacramental Program – Formation for Parents/Guardians of children completing their Sacraments of Initiation: This program, prepared by Fr Michael McKinnon during his time in Mildura, has been sent to parishes.

Reports:

- ***Catholic Worship II:*** Bishop Paul advised that the digital version of Catholic Worship II is nearing completion. The distribution of this electronic resource is being finalised by Carter & Co Creative. Musicians scores will not be available at this stage.
- ***Ritual for Closure of a Church:*** The National Liturgical Council has further developed a ritual for closure of a church. Once completed, this resource will be sent to diocesan offices for use in parishes.

There is a section included in the document to assist parishes with the decision making process to close Mass centres. Following this decision by the parish, approval needs to be given by the diocesan Bishop prior to the Final Mass.

- **Clergy Jubilarians Mass:** The Mass to celebrate the 2023 Clergy Jubilarians was a fitting acknowledgement for the following priests:

Fr Lawrie O'Toole - 50 years

Fr Bill Van de Camp - 50 years

Monsignor Glynn Murphy - 40 years

Fr Jorge de Chavez - 25 years

Fr Andrew Hayes - 25 years

Fr James Kerr - 10 years

Thanks to Susan Crowe and members of St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat Parish for their preparation, assistance and participation in the Clergy Jubilee Mass.

150 Years of the Diocese of Ballarat – 2024: A committee has been established to assist with events to mark the 150th anniversary of the diocese in 2024. Resources will be provided to parishes, schools and agencies of the diocese during the anniversary year.

Documents for review: The “Guidelines for the Sacrament of Reconciliation for Children” and the “Sacraments of Initiation for Children Policy Statement” was tabled for ratification at the next meeting.

Policies/guidelines for review in 2023:

- Policy for Altar Servers.
- Guidelines for the use of Visual Display Systems in the Liturgy.

Diocesan Liturgical Commission Policies and Guidelines: There are a number of policies and guidelines provided by the Commission for Ballarat diocesan parishes, schools and agencies:

- ◆ *Guidelines for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion*
- ◆ *Guidelines for Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest*
- ◆ *Manual for Lay Leaders of Sunday Assemblies of Word and Communion*
- ◆ *Guidelines for the Reservation of the Blessed Sacrament*
- ◆ *Guidelines for Pastoral Care and Funeral Ministry*
- ◆ *Policy for Altar Servers*
- ◆ *Guidelines for the Use of Visual Display Systems in Liturgical Celebrations*
- ◆ *Guidelines for Diocesan, Episcopal and Cathedral Liturgies*
- ◆ *Guidelines for the Proper Care and Use of the Holy Oils*

- ◆ *Parish Handbook for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*
- ◆ *Parish Handbook for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults with Children of Catechetical Age*
- ◆ *Guidelines for the Sacrament of Reconciliation for Children*
- ◆ *Sacraments of Initiation for Children Policy Statement*

Copies of these are available from the Pastoral Ministry Office, email liturgy@ballarat.catholic.org.au or ph. 03 5337 7159.

New folders will be provided to parishes for the storage of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission policies and guidelines.

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission will meet again in September 2023.