



Report from the Diocesan Liturgical Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024

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

Reports:

Rite of Election – Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 12.30pm

- The Rite of Election went well again this year and is an important part of each participant's journey into the Catholic Church. Those in attendance enjoyed the day and the hospitality that followed in the Hall.
- The Commission is very grateful to Maria Russell for playing the organ at the Rite, at very short notice.
- In 2025, the first Saturday in Lent falls on a long weekend. The Rite of Election will need to be held on either the weekend before or the weekend following. Date to be confirmed.

General Business:

Mass of the Oils – Monday, March 25, 2025 at 11.30am

- Planning continues for the Mass of the Oils, which this year will include acknowledgement of the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat.
- There is a possibility of a combined schools choir for the Mass.
- Student leaders from all diocesan secondary schools have been invited to attend the Mass and participate in ministries.
- The 2024 clergy jubilarians will be acknowledged during this Mass.
- The Mass is being livestreamed this year.

150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat: Resources to assist with the acknowledgement of 150 years of the Diocese of Ballarat have been provided to parishes and are also available from the diocesan [website](#).

Liturgical Formation 2024: The Western Border and East Wimmera parishes have expressed interest in hosting Liturgy Formation sessions this year. The workshops will be held on the weekend Bishop Paul is visiting these parishes. Details of the programs for these days to be confirmed.

Year of Prayer for 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope: December 24, 2024 – January 6, 2026: The Dicastery for Evangelisation will provide a series of “Notes on Prayer” throughout this year, in the lead up to the Jubilee Year of Hope. The first document, “Teach us to Pray” has been released and is available from the Jubilee Year of Hope [website](#).

ACU Centre for Liturgy Programs: The ACU Centre for Liturgy, which is endorsed by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, offers online training programs for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Ministers of the Word. More information is available from the ACU Centre for Liturgy [website](#).

Documents for review:

Changes were discussed and wording finalised for the Guidelines for the Use of Visual Display Systems in the Liturgy and the Policy for Altar Servers: Both documents are to be presented for ratification at the next meeting.

The next documents for review are the Guidelines for Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest and the Manual for Lay Leaders of Sunday Assemblies of Word & Communion

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission will meet again in May 2024.