



DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSION

The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, the first document produced by the Second Vatican Council in 1963 directed that each diocese is to have a Liturgical Commission, “By way of advancing the liturgical apostolate, every diocese is to have a commission on the sacred liturgy under the direction of the bishop.” (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, par 45).

BALLARAT DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSION

This Commission is an active group in the diocese and undertakes the following tasks:

- Advises the Bishop on liturgical matters.
- Keeps abreast of the liturgical situation in the diocese.
- Promotes liturgical development in the diocese.
- Liaises with Parish Liturgy Groups throughout the diocese.
- Provides diocesan and regional seminars and workshops in liturgical issues and practice.
- Liaises with other Diocesan Liturgical Commissions and the National Liturgical Council.

MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS

Membership of the Commission includes the Bishop and representatives from priests, religious and laity from throughout the diocese. Membership is for an initial term of three (3) years. The Commission meets at least five times per year.

ACTIVITY OF THE COMMISSION

- Assumes responsibility for Diocesan Liturgical Celebrations (in conjunction with the Cathedral Parish) – The Rite of Election as part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and Children of Catechetical Age, the Chrism Mass (Mass of the Oils), Episcopal Ordinations, Ordinations to the Priesthood and Ordinations to the Diaconate and the annual celebration of Clergy Jubilarians Mass (this Mass is co-ordinated in conjunction with the Council of Priests and the Cathedral Parish).
- Provides support for other Diocesan celebrations, including funerals for Diocesan Clergy.
- All works of the Commission are undertaken at the direction of the Bishop of the Diocese.

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

The Commission provides the following resources to assist parishes in their liturgical life:

- ❖ Sacraments of Initiation for Children Policy Statement
- ❖ Catechetical Resources for preparing children for Sacraments

Baptism:

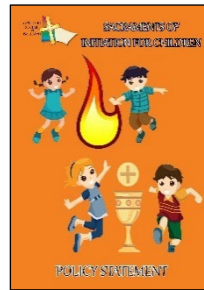
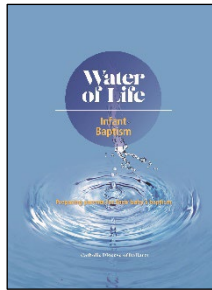
- Water of Life Infant Baptism Preparation

Senior Reconciliation:

- Turn Around

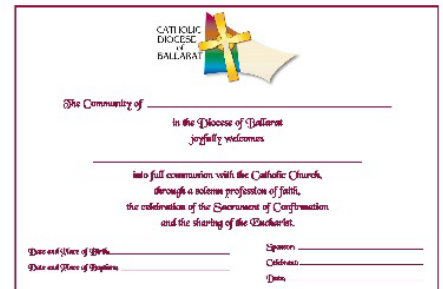
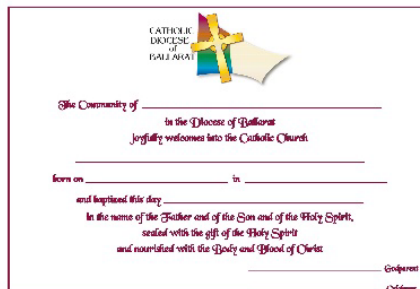
Let the Children Come Series

- Confirmation
- Eucharist
- Combined Confirmation & Eucharist
- Parent Handbook
- Catechist Handbook



Diocesan Sacramental Certificates for:

- ❖ Sacraments of Initiation for Children (tri-fold certificate)
- ❖ Initiation of Adults
- ❖ Reception into the Church



Sacramental stoles and accompanying symbols for the Sacraments of Initiation:



The above resources are provided for Ballarat Diocesan parishes only. Catechetical resources are available to purchase through the Pastoral Ministry Office pastoralministry@ballarat.catholic.org.au (orders to be collected from the office). Sacramental certificates, stoles and symbols are available to purchase through the Catholic Development Fund cdf@ballarat.catholic.org.au

POLICIES & GUIDELINES:

- ❖ Altar Servers
- ❖ Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
- ❖ Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults with Children of Catechetical Age
- ❖ Diocesan, Cathedral and Episcopal Liturgies
- ❖ The Use of Visual Display Systems in Liturgical Celebrations
- ❖ Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

- ❖ Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest
- ❖ Manual for Lay Leaders of Sunday Assemblies of Word and Communion
 - Provision of resource material for Sunday Assemblies of Word and Communion (available from the diocesan website)
- ❖ Reservation of the Blessed Sacrament
- ❖ Pastoral Care & Funeral Ministry
 - Funeral Ministry resources (available from the diocesan website)
- ❖ Sacrament of Reconciliation for Children
- ❖ Proper Care and Use of Holy Oils
- ❖ Ritual for Closure of a Church (available from the diocesan website)
- ❖ Proclaiming the Liturgy of the Word (available from the diocesan website)



Copies of diocesan policies and guidelines will be re-distributed to all parishes in an updated folder. Additional copies of these policies and/or folders are available from the Pastoral Ministry Office.

All policies, guidelines and other resources are available from the members' area of the diocesan website www.ballarat.catholic.org.au. Registration is required to access the members' area and is available to those in the Ballarat Diocese via the website.



LITURGICAL FORMATION

The Liturgical Commission has undertaken a continual program of liturgical formation, offering workshops for ongoing education in various centres throughout the diocese. The Commission has offered formation for:

- Funeral Ministry;
- Liturgical music workshops for musicians and singers;
- Ministry of preaching, planning homilies, preaching and the effective communication of faith;
- Overview of the Liturgical Year;
- Planning and celebrating liturgies - whether they be Sunday celebrations or not;
- Presiders Workshops for Clergy;
- Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and Children;
- Sunday Assembly of Word & Communion;
- Scripture reflection;
- Training/formation programs for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Lectors;
- Use of Visual Display Systems in Liturgical Celebrations.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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