

Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission

Strategy



The Vision of the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission

**A community in which all people
live in right relationships, show
respect, act justly and
care for all God's creation.**



Live in right relationships



Show respect



Act justly



Care for all God's creation

The Mission of the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice

Commission is to:

- **promote Catholic Social Teaching**
- **address social justice issues in light of the Gospel**
- **be an advocate for those experiencing injustice**
- **act with others towards justice, peace and care for all
God's creation**

Catholic Social Teaching is the part of Catholic teaching that addresses matters of social, economic and ecological justice in the world. It is mainly concerned with inter-group or social relationships rather than interpersonal relationships. Like other parts of Church teaching, it is grounded in Scripture, tradition, reason and experience. It develops through time by placing these sources in dialogue with the signs of the times.

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Catholic Social Teaching operates at both the international and the local level and it has three elements: principles for reflection, criteria for judgement and guidelines for action. It is usually communicated through formal teaching documents like encyclicals by Popes and pastoral letters by Bishops.

There is no single official list of Catholic Social Teaching principles, but instead you will find lots of different lists! Each one is likely to include the four principles that the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church says are valid always and everywhere. These are: human dignity, the common good, subsidiarity, and solidarity.

<https://socialjustice.catholic.org.au/catholic-social-teaching/catholic-social-teaching-FAQs>

Preferential Option for the Poor

We live in an amazing world with enough resources for everyone. Yet, many miss out.



Human Dignity

We are made in God's image. This means we each have a God-given dignity.

Care for our Common Home

We are responsible for looking after the world we live in.



Subsidiarity and Participation

The role of people in positions of power is to look after the good of all.

The Common Good

We can only live life in all its fullness when we are in relationship with others – through community.



Solidarity

We should commit ourselves wholeheartedly to the good of all, to stand in solidarity with our one human family.

Strategy

To implement the Vision and Mission of the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice

Commission by addressing the following responsibilities:

- 1. Be guided by the concept of justice in Catholic Social Teaching.**
- 2. Reflect upon and promote the resources and research prepared by the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council and other relevant agencies.**
- 3. Educate the Catholic and wider community about the social teaching of the Catholic Church.**

- 4. Prepare public statements and make submissions to enquiries on social justice issues, with approval of the Bishop.**
- 5. Support the development of a network of social justice contacts and groups throughout the diocese by using a range of communication strategies.**
- 6. Initiate and support activities that promote the annual Social Justice Statement of the Australian Bishops.**



Be guided by the concept of justice in Catholic Social Teaching

**Reflect upon and promote the
resources and research prepared
by the Australian Catholic Social
Justice Council and other
relevant agencies**





Educate the Catholic and wider community about the social teaching of the Catholic Church

Aims of Meetings

In order to implement the strategies outlined in this plan, members agreed that each meeting of the Social Justice Commission will include:

- 1. A time of formation and study together. This will include prayer and reflection, with particular attention to making connections between Catholic Social Teaching, social justice issues and Jesus' ministry.**
- 2. Identification of and updates on emerging social justice issues that call for a considered response. This should include the provision of assistance and advice on social justice issues, as requested by the Bishop. Any initiatives and actions should clearly link to the responsibilities of this Strategy and be monitored to evaluate progress.**
- 3. A short time of reflection and evaluation towards the end of each meeting to consider what has been heard, what has been achieved and which actions need to be noted.**



A time of formation and study together



Identification of and updates on emerging social justice issues that call for a considered response



A short time of reflection and evaluation



**Ratified by Bishop Paul Bird
on March 23, 2024**

- **Images: www.pexels.com**
- **Music: www.bensound.com**