



Report from the Diocesan Liturgical Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, March 11, 2025

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

Reports

Bishop's Report:

Update on the new Lectionary:

- Bishop Paul has been meeting online regularly with Martin Foster, Archbishop Mark Coleridge and Tom Elich to begin reviewing lectionary text. Changes made to the text also need to be approved by the copyright holders.
- There will be four volumes of the new Lectionary: One volume for Sundays, two volumes for weekdays (which will include Lent and Easter) and one volume for Ritual Masses and Masses for Various Needs and Occasions.

Apostolic Nuncio visit to the Ballarat Diocese: Archbishop Charles Balvo will be visiting the Ballarat Diocese during Holy Week this year. Archbishop Balvo will concelebrate Masses with Bishop Paul at the Chrism Mass and Easter Masses at the Cathedral.

Rite of Election – Saturday, March 2, 2025 at 12.30pm:

- The Rite of Election went well again this year. Those in attendance enjoyed the day and the hospitality that followed in the Hall.
- The Diocesan Liturgical Commission is grateful to those who assisted with Rite of Election.
- A report on the Rite of Election is available from the diocesan [website](#).

General Business

Mass of the Oils – Monday, April 14, 2025 at 1.00pm

- Archbishop Charles Balvo will concelebrate the Mass.
- Student leaders from all diocesan secondary schools have been invited to attend the Mass and participate in ministries.
- The 2025 clergy jubilarians will be acknowledged during this Mass.
- Choir rehearsal dates have been advertised.
- The Mass is being livestreamed this year.
- Afternoon tea will be provided in the Hall.
- Planning continues for the Mass of the Oils.

St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat Stained Glass Window booklet: Bishop Paul has designated St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat as a place of pilgrimage for this Jubilee Year. Pilgrims are invited to take a self-guided tour of the Cathedral. A booklet is available for pilgrims to follow. This includes suggestions on how to be a pilgrim, a brief history of St Patrick's Cathedral and information about the beautiful stained-glass windows.

As well as visiting the Cathedral for the self-guided tour, pilgrims are welcome to spend some time in the Cathedral in prayer. This could include joining in the celebration of Mass. Masses are held on weekdays at 12.05pm and on Saturday mornings at 10 o'clock. Sunday Masses are celebrated on Saturday evenings at 5.30pm and on Sundays at 8.00am, 10.30am and 5.00pm. There are also opportunities for daily adoration and devotions. Please check the Cathedral [bulletin](#) for information.

A self-guided tour is best done in quiet times, when there is no Mass or other event happening. Pilgrims are welcome to come as individuals or you could arrange for members of your parish to come as a group. More information is available from the diocesan [website](#).

Tony Alonso Tour 2025: A Liturgical Music Symposium will be presented by Tony on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall Ballarat. Information regarding the workshops and booking details are available from the diocesan [website](#).

Liturgy Formation: Will be held at Ss Peter & Paul's Church Buninyong on Sunday, June 1, 2025. Bishop Paul will celebrate Mass at 10.30am. Workshops will be Funeral Ministry and Music in the Liturgy. Further details to come.

Anniversary Prayer: A recommendation was made to the Liturgical Commission to adopt the Anniversary Prayer, written by Bishop Paul for the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat, as the diocesan prayer, with changes made to some of the wording.

Documents for review

Changes were suggested to the documents for review:

- “Guidelines for Diocesan, Episcopal and Cathedral Liturgies”,
- “Parish Handbook for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults”
- “The Parish Handbook for the Rite of Christian Initiations of Adults with Children of Catechetical Age.”

Changes were suggested to these documents. The updated documents will be tabled at the next meeting for approval.

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission will meet again in May 2025.