



## Ballarat Diocese Social Justice Commission

### Report of Meeting Saturday, August 30, 2025

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The Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission met on Saturday, August 30, 2025.

Present were Bishop Paul Bird CSsR, Jillian Hogbin (Chair, Diocesan Director Caritas), Sarah Page (Executive Officer, Social Justice Education Officer DOBCEL), Susan Crowe, Michael Ryan (St Vincent de Paul), James Treloar (CatholicCare Ballarat).

The meeting opened with Prayer and Formation on the theme of *Laudato Si'*, Seasons of Creation, led by Susan Crowe.

James Treloar from Catholic Care Ballarat was welcomed as a new member of the Commission.

#### **Social Justice Statement Launch 2025**

"Signs of Hope on the Edge. Serving homeless people with mental ill-health." Ballarat launch by webinar on Tuesday, 9 September 2025 at DOBCEL at 6:00pm. Bookings online. Prayer and three guest speakers, Maria Noonan, CEO of St John of God Ballarat & Warrnambool, Michael Ryan, St Vincent de Paul and James Treloar, CatholicCare Ballarat. The webinar will conclude with a Q&A. The webinar will be recorded and available on the diocesan website.

#### **Seasons of Creation Celebration**

"Peace with Creation" Mass will be celebrated led by Bishop Paul with a picnic lunch to follow on Friday, 19th September at 10.30am at St James Primary School, Sebastopol. All schools and parishes are invited to attend.

#### **Correspondence and advocacy**

- The Commission received letters from Rural Australians for Refugees and Apollo Bay Social Justice Advocacy Group. A candlelight vigil for refugees will be held in Sturt Street, Ballarat on 9 October at 7.00pm.
- Members were invited to attend Diocesan Boards/Committees Formation Evening on 4 September from 4.00pm – 6.00pm.

#### **BDSJC Meeting Structure**

The vision, mission and strategies of the Commission have been renewed. Future meeting agendas will be structured around the six strategies.

#### **BDSJC Minutes Secretary**

The Commission is seeking a new Minutes Secretary upon the resignation of the current secretary, Fiona Tonkin. Fiona was farewelled at a shared lunch after the meeting. 13 years of service as Minute Secretary was gratefully acknowledged. Her generosity of time and attention to detail in recording the minutes were greatly appreciated.

**Next Meeting:** Saturday, November 15, 2025.