

CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
of
BALLARAT



DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSION

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Report from the Diocesan Liturgical Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, February 10, 2026

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

Reports

Bishop's Report - Lectionary update: The working group reviewing the Lectionary are making good progress. The Sunday Lectionary is complete and the group are now working on the weekday lectionary. At the conclusion of this review, there will be one volume for Sundays, two volumes for weekdays and one volume for Votive Masses, Commons, etc.

Jubilee Year of Hope Closing Mass: Bishop Paul celebrated Mass on Sunday, December 28, 2025 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 10.30am to conclude the Jubilee Year of Hope, which was also the Feast of the Holy Family.

International Eucharistic Congress 2028 (Eucharist28): The Eucharist28 Organising Committee have sent resources to parishes, which are available on the [website](#).

General Business

Rite of Election - Saturday, February 21, 2026 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 12.30pm: Planning has commenced for the Rite of Election.

Mass of Thanksgiving to Mark the Retirement of Bishop Paul - Monday, March 2, 2026 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 7.00pm: The Diocesan Liturgical Commission is planning a Mass of Thanksgiving for Bishop Paul, to acknowledge his contribution to the diocese over his 14 years of service and to mark his retirement. Supper will follow in the Hall. All welcome to attend. The Mass will be livestreamed.

Episcopal Ordination and Installation Mass of Bishop-Elect Mark Freeman - Thursday, March 19, 2026 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat 11.00am:

- Pope Leo has appointed Fr Mark Freeman as the Ninth Bishop of Ballarat. Bishop Paul tabled a copy of the decree.
- A Working Group has commenced planning for the Mass and logistics of the day.
- Entry to the Cathedral for the Mass will be via invitation / entry card only.
- The Mass will be livestreamed.

Mass of the Oils - Monday, March 30, 2026 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 1.00pm. Afternoon tea will follow in the Hall. All welcome to attend. The Mass will be livestreamed.

Pilgrimage of the Migrant Jubilee Cross - Tuesday, March 31 - Sunday, April 12, 2026:

- The Cross will arrive at the Cathedral from Sandhurst on Monday, March 30 and will be in the Ballarat Diocese until Sunday, April 12. The Cross will remain in the Cathedral for Holy Week.
- The Sunraysia Parish will host the Cross from April 7-12.

Year of St Francis: Pope Leo has proclaimed 2026 The Year of St Francis. The Vatican has announced plenary indulgences for the year, which is a special Jubilee to mark the 800th anniversary of the death of Saint Francis of Assisi, running from January 10, 2026 - January 10, 2027.

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission will meet again in March 2026.