



## Report from the Diocesan Liturgical Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, March 4, 2026

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

### *Reports*

**Bishop's Report - Lectionary update:** The working group reviewing the Lectionary are continuing to make good progress. Bishop Paul will continue on this group following his retirement.

### **Rite of Election - Saturday, February 21, 2026 at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat at 12.30pm:**

- The Rite of Election was successful again this year. Those in attendance enjoyed the day and the hospitality that followed in the Hall.
- It was appreciated that participants from the Sunraysia parish travelled to attend.
- Thank you to Susan Crowe, Kay Curran, Helen Lee, Maria Noonan and other Cathedral volunteers who assisted at the Rite.
- A report on the Rite of Election is available from the diocesan [website](#).

### **Mass of Thanksgiving to Mark the Retirement of Bishop Paul - Monday, March 2, 2026 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 7.00pm:**

- Bishop Paul acknowledged and thanked those who assisted with the preparations and ministries at this Mass.
- The choir was beautifully led by Roger Hillman and musicians Geoff Martin and Adrian Newman.
- The Mass was livestreamed and many people joined the Mass online.
- A report on the Mass of Thanksgiving is available from the diocesan [website](#).

## ***General Business***

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

- Planning continues for the Episcopal Ordination and Installation Mass of Bishop-Elect Mark Freeman and the working group continues to coordinate the logistics for the day.
- Thank you to all who have assisted with the management of this day to date.

### **Mass of the Oils - Monday, March 30, 2026 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 1.00pm.**

- Planning continues for the Mass of the Oils.
- Afternoon tea will follow in the Hall.
- 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. Evening Prayer will be held on either the Tuesday or Wednesday of this week.
- The Sunraysia Parish will host the Cross from April 7-12.

### **Farewell to Bishop Paul:**

Fr Gary thanked Bishop Paul for his leadership and guidance of the Commission during his time as diocesan bishop. People of the diocese have benefited from Bishop Paul's knowledge of the liturgy and his ability to share this through formation and other events of the Commission. Bishop Paul was also thanked for celebrating the many diocesan Masses over his 14 years. His calm presiding at Masses creates a reflective atmosphere for the celebration.

Bishop Paul thanked members for their contribution to the Commission and for their support of him in his role as bishop. He acknowledged the time and commitment that members have offered to the Commission through formation and other diocesan events over the years.

The Commission prayed a prayer of blessing over Bishop Paul as he moves into retirement.

***The Diocesan Liturgical Commission will meet again in May 2026.***