



Report from the Diocesan Liturgical Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026

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

Fr Gary Jones welcomed Bishop Mark to his first meeting of the Commission.

Correspondence

RCIA Program Formation: A request has been received by the Liturgical Commission to consider RCIA formation in the diocese, which would encourage and support those coordinating the program in parishes and those participating in the program.

Mystagogia Mass: There would be benefit in inviting RCIA participants to a Mystagogia Mass, usually held on Pentecost Sunday.

Reports

Bishop's Report:

- Bishop Mark offered his thanks to the Commission for the coordination of his Ordination and Installation Mass as Ninth Bishop of Ballarat and has written a letter of thanks to the people of the diocese,
- Feedback from this event has been very positive and the livestream has had in excess of 5500 views.

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

- The Diocesan Liturgical Commission would like to thank all who contributed to the Mass of Ordination and Installation for Bishop Mark. This was a significant event and the assistance of so many volunteers from our parishes, schools and agencies made this important day very special for Bishop Mark and the diocese.

- Fr Gary, on behalf of the Liturgical Commission, expressed gratitude and thanks to the Working Party for Bishop Mark's Ordination and Installation Mass.
- A report from this Mass is available from the diocesan [website](#) and will also feature in ODC edition 1 2026.

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

- The Mass of the Oils was successful again this year. Bishop Mark, in his first time as Celebrant, was pleased with the representation of people from across the diocese and the recommitment of laity, religious and clergy during the Mass.
- Feedback will be sought on the preferred starting time of the Mass – either 1.00pm or 6.30pm.
- A report from the Mass is available from the diocesan [website](#).

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

- The Migrant Jubilee Cross was delivered to St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat from the Sandhurst Diocese on Monday, March 31 and stayed in the Cathedral until April 5, 2026. Evening Prayer was held on Tuesday, March 31, 2026 at 7.00pm.
- The Cross was delivered to the Sunraysia Parish on April 3 and Masses were celebrated in Robinvale, Ouyen, Red Cliffs and Mildura during this week.
- Bishop Mark took the opportunity to visit the Sunraysia Parish over the final weekend and celebrate Masses in Mildura.
- A report from the Pilgrimage of the Migrant Jubilee Cross in the diocese is available from the diocesan [website](#).

International Eucharistic Congress – Eucharist28:

- The Co-ordinating group for IEC2028 continue to meet and communicate with diocesan representatives on a regular basis, to plan for this event and provide resources for use in parishes.
- Bishop Mark suggested we use this Congress as an opportunity for Eucharistic renewal in our diocese. Resources could be adapted for formation for laity and clergy on the importance of the Eucharist.

General Business

Music Ministry at recent Diocesan Liturgical Masses: The Liturgical Commission expressed sincere gratitude to Roger Hillman for coordinating the music at Bishop Paul's Thanksgiving Mass, Bishop Mark's Ordination and Installation Mass and the Mass of the Oils this year. The Commission acknowledged with appreciation the expertise, time, and effort Roger generously volunteered in support of these Masses.

Commission Membership: The Liturgical Commission is seeking new members. The charter for the Commission states: “Membership: The Bishop is the President with membership invited from Priests, Religious and Laity. Membership of the Commission should represent the diversity of the diocese. Membership of the Commission is to be between 8-12 people.”

Clergy Jubilarians Mass - Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at St Patrick’s Cathedral, Ballarat at 5.00pm:

- 2026 Clergy Jubilarians are: Frs Dan Arundell & Damien Heath – 70 years; Bishop Peter Connors – 65 years; Fr Denis Ryan – 40 years; Fr Marcello Colasante – 25 years.
- Bishop Mark will be the Main Celebrant for this Mass and Clergy Jubilarians will be invited to con-celebrate.

Copyright update for parishes: One License has introduced an Audio Recording Licence to ensure that recordings embedded into presentation slides are properly licenced.

Diocesan Licences for One License and LiturgyHelp: The Liturgical Commission will explore the possibility of a diocesan licence for One License and Liturgy Help.

Documentation for Review

Guidelines for Pastoral Care and Funeral Ministry: These guidelines and the accompanying funeral ministry resources are due for review. The guidelines and resources are available from the diocesan [website](#).

The Diocesan Liturgical Commission will meet again in July 2026.