



Report from the Diocesan Liturgical Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, July 21, 2026

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

Reports

Bishop's Report: Bishop Mark has had the opportunity to visit several parishes across the diocese since his Ordination and Installation in March. These visits have been very positive experiences, providing valuable opportunities to engage with parish communities and witness the faith life of the local Church. The welcome received has been warm and it has been encouraging to encounter parishioners who are committed to the mission and worship of the Church.

Eucharist28:

- The International Eucharistic Congress in 2028 presents a significant opportunity for Eucharistic Renewal in the diocese. The Congress could bring fresh perspectives, renewed enthusiasm and greater creativity in parish life. Maintaining a clear focus on Christ present in the Eucharist should remain at the heart of all discussions and initiatives related to Eucharistic renewal.
- The Organising Committee for Eucharist28 will be providing formation resources for use throughout all Australian dioceses next year.

First Holy Communion: Eucharist28 provides a further opportunity to review and renew First Holy Communion practices across the diocese, to ensure greater consistency, preparation and pastoral sensitivity.

Mystagogia Mass: RCIA participants from the Ballarat area gathered on Pentecost Sunday (May 24) to meet and attend a Mystagogia Mass, celebrated by Bishop Mark. This was an opportunity to follow-up with the RCIA participants after their initiation into the Church, to ensure they felt welcome in the community and to encourage them to continue their faith journey.

General Business

Review of the Liturgical Commission: Following the Diocesan Assembly and the subsequent Forum for Commissions and Committees, a review of all commissions and committees is being undertaken. The review aims to identify the relationships and connections between each group, examine how they collaborate and support one another, assess their sustainability and explore how they can work together within an overarching diocesan governance and organisational structure.

Year of St Francis:

- The 40th Anniversary of the World Day of Prayer for Peace is being commemorated with a major Interreligious Day of Prayer and Reflection in Assisi on October 27, 2026. Originally convened by Pope St John Paul II in 1986, this year's landmark event will be held under the theme "Unarmed and Disarming Peace."
- The 40th-anniversary celebration is a highlight of the broader Jubilee Year of Saint Francis. Resources will be available from the Bishops Commission for Christian Unity and Inter-religious Dialogue in time.

Policies

Altar Servers Policy: Updated copies of the Altar Servers Policy will be distributed to parishes.

Guidelines for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: These guidelines were recently used in a parish for formation and were commended as a valuable and effective resource.

The Commission will meet again in September