



Report from the Diocesan Liturgical Commission Meeting held on Tuesday, September 22, 2026

Members in attendance were Fr Gary Jones (Chair), Mrs Cathy Prunty, Dr Susan Crowe.

Apologies was received from Mr Michael Flagg, Bishop Mark Freeman, Dr Chris Hadwen and Mrs Gabrielle Ewing.

Reports

Bishop's Report: No report from Bishop Mark, as he was attending a Formation Convocation for New Bishops in Rome.

Eucharist28:

- The prayer focus next year will be "Year of Worship – a mystery to be celebrated."
- The Archdiocese of Sydney have appointed three clergy Ambassadors to present at Clergy conferences or lead diocesan retreats in the lead-up to the Congress.
- Each parish will be requested to nominate a Eucharist28 ambassador.
- Copies of the Eucharistic Congress Prayer will to be printed for use throughout the diocese.

General Business

Directives for Funeral Directors in the diocese:

- The Liturgical Commission is producing a document that will assist Funeral Directors with their role in a Catholic funeral.
- Input for this document will be sourced from parish Funeral Ministry teams.
- The Commission could offer Funeral Ministry Formation in 2027.

Admission for Candidacy for Ordination as Deacons and Priests – Channa Tilakarathna & Simon Zakari: Bishop Mark celebrated this Mass on Sunday, September 27, 2026 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 5.00pm. Channa and Simon provided a written declaration to Bishop Mark, of their wish to be ordained as Deacons and then possibly Priests.

Clergy Jubilarians Mass: Bishop Mark will celebrate Mass to acknowledge the 2026 Clergy Jubilarians on Tuesday, November 10, 2026 at St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat at 5.00pm. Jubilarians this year are: 70 years – Frs Dan Arundell and Damien Heath; 40 years – Fr Denis Ryan; 25 years - Fr Marcello Colasante.

Year of St Francis: The Sandhurst Diocese has produced a booklet, "St Francis of Assisi Reflection & Prayer Resource" for the Year of St Francis and have kindly offered this resource for use in our diocese <https://sandhurst.catholic.org.au/item/3145-st-francis-of-assisi-jubilee-prayer-book>.

Documentation for Review:

Guidelines for Pastoral Care and Funeral Ministry: These guidelines will be updated, in conjunction with the, "Directives for Funeral Directors" document.

The Commission will meet again in November.