



BALLARAT DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

ROLE DESCRIPTION FOR MEMBERS

Establishing the Diocesan Pastoral Council marks an important milestone in the life of our diocese. It reflects our shared commitment to fostering a culture of prayerful discernment, collaboration and participation in the mission entrusted to us by Christ.

The Council will provide a vital forum through which the voices, experiences and gifts of the faithful can contribute to the ongoing discernment of our local Church. Together, we seek to recognise where the Spirit is leading us and how we may respond faithfully to the challenges and opportunities of our time.

This vision calls us into a deeper communion, where diversity of gifts becomes a source of strength and where every person has a role to play in advancing the Gospel. It reminds us that the Church flourishes when all the baptised are encouraged to share their wisdom, talents, and experiences in service to the wider community.

This is a voluntary role appointed by the Bishop of Ballarat. Following an expression of interest/nomination process, the Bishop will participate in discussions with the Pastoral Planning Panel and will make the final selection after considering the Panel's recommendations.

All members (18+) of the Diocese of Ballarat are eligible to become members of the DPC. The aim is to have people from a broad section of the community, with a diversity of dispositions, skills, backgrounds and interests. Members will not represent a particular interest group or organisation but will be expected to look to serve the best interests of all members of the diocese.

Responsibilities

- Listening to the people of the diocese
- Contributing to the mission and pastoral priorities of the diocese
- Supporting synodal practices and discernment
- Advising the Bishop on key pastoral issues and opportunities

Expectations

- Attend 4 meetings per year – a mixture of in person (across the diocese) and online
- Participate in prayerful discernment and formation
- Engage with parish and diocesan communities
- Prepare for meetings
- Contribute constructively and respectfully
- Maintain confidentiality

Knowledge, skills & attributes

- Have a strong commitment to the mission of the Diocese
- Demonstrate wisdom, sound judgement and collaboration
- Reflect the diversity of the diocese

- Are active in parish, ministry, professional or community life
- Can think beyond own local interests for the good of the whole diocese
- Openness - open to the Holy Spirit, to others, to trying something new.
- Humility - to know our need of God, listen to others and take time to discern actively.
- Outward Looking - having sense of Mission in this place with these people.

Desired Representation from:

- Different geographic regions
- Age groups
- Cultural backgrounds
- Vocations (lay, clergy, religious)
- Professional expertise
- Ministry experience
- Young adults
- First Nations Catholics
- Migrant communities
- Education sector
- Social service ministries
- Rural communities

Time Commitment

- Length of appointment is for three years
- Number of meetings - 4 meetings per year – a mixture of in person (across the diocese) and online
- Formation days
- Reading and preparation time
- Travel expectations for meetings in different areas of the diocese

Selection Process

- Applications will be assessed
- Appointments are made by the Bishop
- Expected timeline is

Key Dates

- Expression of Interest opening date – Thursday, October 8, 2026.
- Closing date – Friday, November 13, 2026.
- Interview dates – to be confirmed
- Appointment date – to be confirmed
- First gathering – early 2027

Expenses

All members will be supported to enable them to participate in the Diocesan Pastoral Council processes for the duration of their appointment.

Enquiries can be directed to:

Jane Collins

Pastoral Planning Panel

E: jane.collins@ballarat.catholic.org.au

P: 03) 53 377 179