



BALLARAT DIOCESAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

FORMATION OPPORTUNITY FOR POTENTIAL DPC MEMBERS

As members of the DPC, participation in the formation program between the Diocese of Ballarat and Catholic Theological College, funded by the Therese D'Orsa Mission Fund, is an important expectation of membership of the Diocesan Pastoral Council. Attendance at all three formation sessions is strongly encouraged, as the content will provide a common foundation of understanding, language and practice for the Council's work.

The formation is designed not only to deepen members' understanding of synodality and the Diocese of Ballarat's vision, but also to equip them for one of the Council's key responsibilities: contributing to the ongoing development, implementation and future shaping of the diocese.

As the Council will play a significant role in discerning pastoral priorities and guiding the mission of the diocese into the future, it is essential that members engage fully in this shared formation experience. Participation will ensure that Council members are equipped to undertake this work from a common theological, pastoral and synodal framework, grounded in attentive listening, communal discernment and a commitment to the mission of the Church in the Diocese of Ballarat.

Expectations of DPC Members

Members are expected to:

- Attend and actively participate in all three formation sessions.
- Engage in prayerful reflection, dialogue, listening, and communal discernment throughout the process.
- Familiarise themselves with the foundational principles of Vatican II, the Diocesan Assembly, and the Vision of the Diocese of Ballarat.
- Work collaboratively with fellow participants and contribute constructively to discussions and formation activities.
- Reflect on their own ministry, parish, school, or diocesan context to identify opportunities for synodal practice and project development.
- Maintain communication with the program coordinator and seek support as required throughout the project process.
- Commit to the development and completion of a synodal praxis project during Semester 1.

Formation Program Overview

The formation program comprises:

1. Introduction Session - December 5, 2026
2. Synodal Dispositions Session - Semester 1, 2027
3. Reading the Signs of the Times Session - Semester 1, 2027

Commitment to Synodal Leadership

Participation in this formation is more than attendance at a series of workshops. It is an invitation to embrace a synodal way of being Church through attentive listening, shared discernment, collaboration and missionary engagement. DPC members are encouraged to approach the formation with openness, curiosity and a willingness to both learn from and contribute to the experiences of others.

Through this commitment, DPC members will be better equipped to support the Diocese's ongoing journey towards becoming a more synodal Church, grounded in the Gospel and attentive to the movement of the Holy Spirit in our communities and our world.

Enquiries can be directed to:

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