



Diocesan e-News

ANNUAL GATHERING OF BALLARAT DIOCESAN PASTORAL SUPPORT GROUP

Once again, a very happy and successful assembly of our Ballarat Diocesan Pastoral Support Group took place at Halls Gap from Sunday, October 23 until Tuesday, October 25. This year the group welcomed some new faces from Ballarat North, Wendouree, Warrnambool, Hamilton and Cororooke/Pirron Yallock. Members enjoyed the comfort and tranquillity of the Pinnacle Holiday Lodge with our hosts Barry and Mimie.

Sunday evening, in rather cold weather, we enjoyed a BBQ in the grounds of the Lodge!! After being well nourished by the food, drink and company we were treated to a presentation by Fr Andrew Hayes and Joyce of his production "Boundless Plains". We were entertained, amazed and very challenged by Andrew and Joyce. Andrew is doing this to support the cause of Rural Australians for Refugees.

After the concert we moved into the spirit of our gathering where we welcomed Fr Kevin Lenehan as our guest speaker and made use of the chance for all to introduce or re-introduce themselves.



On Monday we were privileged to have Fr Kevin Lenehan continue as our guest speaker. Kevin introduced us to the life and writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, (1906-1945), a German Lutheran priest and theologian. All in the group were intrigued and inspired by this man and Kevin led us to see how applicable his writings and thinking are in our church in this present age.

The meal on Monday evening at the Quarry Restaurant was a true celebration of our time together.

Tuesday morning was a time to make plans for our gathering in 2017. Some new members volunteered to join the executive of this organising group for the gathering. This group will arrange details and guest speaker for the gathering in 2017.

The gathering closed with a prayer time where we remembered with love and gratitude Sr Barbara May (RIP), it was a very moving time as Barbara was a staunch and much loved member of our group over 23 years.

We thank our Bishop, Paul Bird, and the CDF for supporting us in this venture and we thank God for this time of learning and reflection, a time of appreciation of one another and the beauties of creation in Halls Gap.

Clare Arundell

