



Bishop's Office
5 Lyons Street South
Ballarat VIC 3350
P.O. Box 576
Ballarat VIC 3353

Phone: (03) 5337 7121
Fax: (03) 5332 1122

E-mail: bishopsoffice@ballarat.catholic.org.au

Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission Strategy

The Vision of the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission

A community in which all people live in right relationships, show respect, act justly and care for all God's creation.

The Mission of the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission is to

- promote Catholic Social Teaching
- address social justice issues in light of the Gospel
- be an advocate for those experiencing injustice
- act with others towards justice, peace and care for all God's creation.

Strategy

To implement the Vision and Mission of the Ballarat Diocesan Social Justice Commission by addressing the following responsibilities:

1. Be guided by the concept of justice in Catholic Social Teaching.
2. Reflect upon and promote the resources and research prepared by the Australian Catholic Social Justice Council and other relevant agencies.
3. Educate the Catholic and wider community about the social teaching of the Catholic Church.
4. Prepare public statements and make submissions to enquiries on social justice issues, with approval of the Bishop.
5. Support the development of a network of social justice contacts and groups throughout the diocese by using a range of communication strategies.
6. Initiate and support activities that promote the annual Social Justice Sunday Statement of the Australian Bishops.

Aims of Meetings

In order to implement the strategies outlined in this plan, members agreed that each meeting of the Social Justice Commission will include

1. A time of formation and study together. This will include prayer and reflection, with particular attention to making connections between Catholic Social Teaching, social justice issues and Jesus' ministry.
2. Identification of and updates on emerging social justice issues that call for a considered response. This should include the provision of assistance and advice on social justice issues, as requested by the Bishop. Any initiatives and actions should clearly link to the responsibilities of this Strategy and be monitored to evaluate progress.
3. A short time of reflection and evaluation towards the end of each meeting to consider what has been heard, what has been achieved and which actions need to be noted.

Ratified by Bishop Paul Bird on March 23, 2024