

ABM CONFERENCE 2019  
DIOCESE OF BENDIGO REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

As a new representative, following on from Archdeacon Michael Hopkins for the Diocese of Bendigo, I don't have yet a great deal to report. I am excited though about taking on this role and hope to be of assistance for ABM as the Bendigo Rep. ABM as a Mission Agency is very dear to my heart and has been since childhood.

In Bendigo the Auxilliary is still active meeting 3-4 times per year. This includes:

- Prayer support for ABM
- Organizing Deanery Gatherings
- Raising funds for the National Auxilliary Project
- Being a support link for ABM – encouraging parishes to support ABM mission work.

The Deanery gatherings were all held in June. This included gatherings at:

- St Luke's White Hills
- St Paul's Kyneton
- St Mary's Lockington
- Christ Church Swan Hill

Gatherings met for prayer, lunch or Afternoon Tea, informal reports from parishes about what's happening at the local level for ABM & mission in general. Deanery reps were elected, a DVD on the Auxilliary project and a game followed that helped people further explore then issues in PNG. A display table and trading table also featured.

\$770 was raised for the ABM project

\$410 trading table

\$360 admission (1/2 went to host parishes for catering)

As a Diocesan Rep I want to work towards getting more messages through to parishes about ABM and its work. This involves getting to know who the Parish Mission Secretaries are and making them more a part of the communications. I also want to encourage, perhaps that Deanery Gatherings are spread out a bit, unless we have a special guest coming to them.

I am looking forward to growing in my experience of the role and of furthering the profile of ABM in the Diocese and also look for ways outside of the church too.

The Revd Canon Ian Howarth  
Bendigo Diocesan Representative