

## THE RITE OF ELECTION 2020

RCIA stands for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and it is the process of initiating new adult members into the Church. RCIC stands for Rite of Christian Initiation of Children. RCIA and RCIC are both processes of individuals growing into and becoming part of the Catholic Church. The process is marked by a series of rites, the second of which is the Rite of Election.

On Saturday, February 29, 2020, parishioners from Ballarat Cathedral, Ballarat East, Ballarat North, Beaufort, Colac, Horsham, Redan, Warrnambool and Wendouree gathered in St Patrick's Cathedral for the Rite of Election. An apology was received from Sacred Heart Parish, Mildura.



This Rite marks the conclusion of the period of the Catechumenate and is a doorway to the period of Purification and Enlightenment. Basic to understanding the Rite is the belief that no-one comes to faith, to the Church, to the Sacraments, or even to God without being called by God.



The Liturgy was celebrated by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR assisted by the Administrator of the Cathedral Parish, Fr Justin Driscoll. The celebration began with the Liturgy of the Word followed by the presentation of the Catechumens from Ballarat Cathedral, Beaufort, Horsham, Redan and Warrnambool, together with catechumens in absentia from Mildura. After being called forward by Fr Justin, Bishop Paul, speaking in the name of the Church, questioned the preparation, understanding and readiness of the catechumens. Assured of adequate formation Bishop Paul was presented with each Parish Book of names to sign, before being introduced individually to the Catechumens and Godparents. In response to the enrolment of names, Bishop Paul called the catechumens to the Easter Sacraments and declared them members of the Elect.

The next group to be presented to Bishop Paul were children enrolled in the Rite of Christian Initiation for Children. Children from the Ballarat Cathedral, Ballarat East, Ballarat North, Horsham, Redan, Warrnambool and Wendouree were named and after personally being greeted by Bishop Paul, were proclaimed members of the Elect.

The final group to be named and presented to Bishop Paul were the baptised candidates from Ballarat Cathedral, Ballarat North, Beaufort, Colac, Horsham and Redan, along with the candidates in absentia from Mildura, who seek full communion within the Catholic Church. The candidates proclaimed their intention to spend the weeks of Lent in prayerful preparation for the coming celebration of Easter.



Following the blessing and dismissal, all present joined the Bishop for refreshments in St Patrick's Hall. Throughout the entire celebration there was a great air of anticipation and excitement which engendered a sense of enjoyment for all and provided witness to the work of the Holy Spirit truly alive in our Diocese.

Top photo: Donna Mason, Oscar, Mandy Simpson, Oliver, Ange Jones, Lindy Jones & Otis.

Middle photo: Warrnambool delegation

Bottom photo: Redan delegation