

Invitation to Blessing of Statue of St Patrick

*A statue of St Patrick will be placed and blessed in
St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat*

*by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR during Evening Prayer (Vespers)
on the Vigil of St Patrick's Day (Wednesday, March 16) at 7.00pm.
On St Patrick's Day itself, there will be Masses at 10.00am and 7.00pm.
Fr Ed Moloney and Fr Abraham Thomas will preside and acknowledge
the blessing of the statue during those Masses.*

People of the Diocese are welcome to the Evening Prayer and the Masses.

Originally donated to St Patrick's Church in Rokewood in 1959 as a gift from John Leemon and Agnes Doyle in memory of their parents and sister, Margaret Mary Leemon, this sculpture of St Patrick is a rare example of high quality polychromatic work. Made in Fitzroy by Mattei Brothers, the statue is of plaster, reinforced with iron rods. The iconography and symbols connected to St Patrick have often portrayed him as a bearded bishop with mitre, crozier and chasuble and holding the Bible. However, in this sculpture, St Patrick holds a church, a reference to his role in bringing Christianity to Ireland and building up the Church there during the 5th century. His chasuble is usually marked with a cross but in this case, the statue has been painted with images of the shamrock, a reference to the tradition that St Patrick used the three-leaved shamrock to explain the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. The inner lining of the chasuble he wears is in the characteristic green of Ireland. He is represented in this sculpture as standing on two snakes, an allusion to the tradition that St Patrick drove snakes out of Ireland.

