

Rite of Election

Diocese of Ballarat 2025

RITE OF ELECTION OF CATECHUMENS

and

PRESENTATION OF BAPTISED CANDIDATES

Celebrant:	Most Rev Paul Bird CSsR Bishop of Ballarat
PRESENTER:	Maria Noonan St Patrick's Cathedral, Ballarat
READER:	Dr Chris Hadwen St Augustine's Parish, Maryborough & Diocesan Liturgical Commission
Gospel:	Fr Marcello Colasante, Vicar General & Parish Priest Our Lady Help of Christians, Wendouree, St Augustine's, Creswick & St Peter's, Daylesford
HOMILY:	Most Rev Paul Bird CSsR
Homily: Participants:	Most Rev Paul Bird CSsR Priests and people from parishes of the Diocese of Ballarat
	Priests and people from parishes
PARTICIPANTS:	Priests and people from parishes of the Diocese of Ballarat Dr Susan Crowe
PARTICIPANTS: CANTOR:	Priests and people from parishes of the Diocese of Ballarat Dr Susan Crowe Diocesan Liturgical Commission Mr Geoff Martin

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL BALLARAT MARCH 1, 2025

THIS RITE IS AN ADAPTATION OF THE RITE OF ELECTION FROM THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS. © 1974 INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF ENGLISH IN THE LITURGY.

Rite of Election - 2025

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Presenter:

In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's spiritual and cultural connection to Country, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the different lands on which we meet to celebrate and worship.

We recognise the continued care of the lands and waterways passed from generation to generation, wisdom that is shared, and life that is celebrated in harmony with the natural environment.

We honour the Elders past and present who have laid the foundations, traditions, and culture for emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and we commit to working together for reconciliation and justice.

Please stand

Gathering Hymn

	TOGETHER, WE BUILD OUR PLACE	R Hillman
Refrain:	We are called to be your hands, we are called to be your feet. Called to reach out with your love	
	to everyone we meet.	
	Be strength to all the broken,	
	light to all who seek your face.	
	To walk your ways, to live each day	
	together we build our place.	

- Each of us has come to share our story; to share our gifts, our wisdom faith and love. To celebrate the work we do together, linked with others journeying in faith. *R*.
- Each of us is called to work for justice, and walk together in God's light and love. To recognise God's face in every person, and work to build your kingdom here on earth. R.

INTRODUCTORY RITE

Bishop: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

- Bishop: Peace be with you.
- All: And with your spirit.

The Bishop welcomes all.

Opening Prayer

Bishop: Let us pray. Almighty God, you always work to save us, and now we rejoice in the great love you give your chosen people.

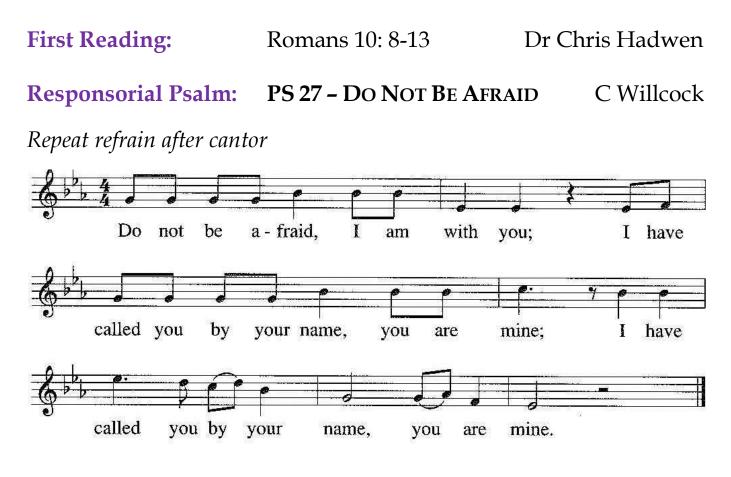
Protect all who are about to become your children through Baptism and those who now seek full communion with us.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please Sit



Gospel Acclamation: CELTIC ALLELUIA

Please stand

A11:	Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia! Give thanks to the Lord, who is good. The love of the Lord has no ending. All in Israel, say: "God's love has no end." Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!		
Gospel:	John 15:12-17	Fr Marcello Colasante	
Homily:		Bishop Paul Bird CSsR	
Please sit			

C Walker

PRESENTATION & ELECTION OF CATECHUMENS

Presenter: Bishop Paul,

As Easter draws near, catechumens are completing their period of preparation. They have been strengthened by God's grace and supported by their parish communities' example and prayers. Now they request that after further preparation, they may receive the Easter sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Bishop: Let those who are to be chosen for the Easter sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist be called.

Catechumens with their godparents / sponsors and parish delegate move to stand at the foot of the altar as their parish is named.

Presenter: Bishop Paul, I present to you the catechumens proposed for election by the parishes of

- Bishop: The Church wishes to know whether these catechumens are sufficiently prepared to be enrolled among the Elect for the coming celebration of Easter. Do their catechists and parish RCIA teams attest that they have received suitable instruction in the Gospel and are living it in accordance with the tradition of the Church?
- Presenter: Their preparation has been as varied as the catechumens themselves, but on the recommendation of their parish communities, I can assure you that they have been given adequate formation.

Bishop: Godparents, I wish to ask you: Have these catechumens faithfully listened to God's Word proclaimed by the Church?

Godparents: Yes, they have!

Bishop: Have they responded to that word and begun to walk in God's presence?

Godparents: Yes, they have!

Bishop: Have they shared the company of their Christian sisters and brothers and joined with them in prayer?

Godparents: Yes, they have!

Bishop: And you, the Christian community gathered here, as you have assembled to be with these catechumens, I now ask you to give an indication of your approval that they now be invited to come to the Easter sacraments.

Assembly responds with applause.

PRESENTATION OF NAMES

Bishop: My dear catechumens, your godparents and catechists and this entire community have spoken in your favour.

The Church in the name of Christ accepts their judgement, and calls you to the Easter sacraments.

Since you have already heard the call of Christ, you must now express your response to that call clearly, and in the presence of the Church. Therefore, do you wish to enter fully into the life of the Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist?

Catechumens: I do.

Bishop: Let the names of these Catechumens be called that I can accept them as members of the Elect.

The presenter reads the names.

Presenter: These are the names of the Elect from the parishes of...

After the reading of names, the delegate takes the book to the Bishop to be signed and then returns to stand with their parish group. After all the books are signed, the Bishop then goes to meet the catechumens and their godparents. The parish delegate introduces the godparent to the Bishop and the godparent introduces the catechumen to the Bishop.

ELECTION OF CATECHUMENS

Bishop: My sisters and brothers, I now declare you to be members of the Elect, to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the coming celebration of Easter.

Catechumens: Thanks be to God.

Bishop: God is always faithful to us; now it is your duty, as it is ours, to be faithful to God in return, and to strive courageously, especially during Lent, to reach the fullness of truth which your election opens up for you. Use the time of Lent well, to prepare yourself through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, to experience what it is to die to sin with Christ, and to rise with him to newness of life.

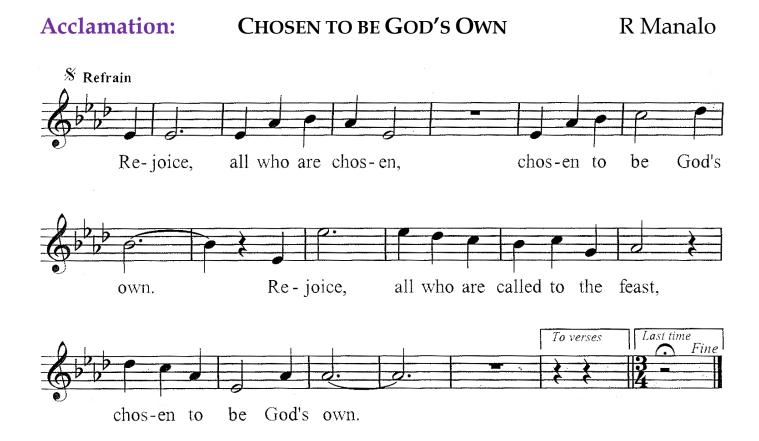
Godparents, you have spoken in favour of these catechumens; place your hand upon their shoulder...

Each godparent places their right hand on the shoulder of the catechumen they have accompanied.

accept them now as chosen in the Lord.

Continue to sustain them through your loving care and example as they come to share in the sacraments of God's life.

Catechumens and godparents return to their place in the Assembly as the following is sung:



After the Election of the Adult Catechumens concludes, the Presentation and Election of Baptised Candidates takes place.

PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF BAPTISED CANDIDATES

Presenter: Bishop Paul, I also present to you a group already numbered among the Elect by virtue of their Baptism. They now wish to

participate fully in the sacramental life of the Catholic Church.

Bishop: You who wish to be received and participate fully in the life of the Church please stand, with your sponsors.

The candidates and their sponsors and the parish delegates stand in their places.

Presenter: Bishop Paul,

I present to you these baptised candidates who now wish to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church. They come upon the recommendation of the parishes of....

The candidates, sponsors and delegates move to the foot of the altar as their parish is named.

Bishop: The Christian life and the demands that flow from the sacraments cannot be taken lightly. Therefore, before granting these candidates their request to share fully in the Church's sacraments, it is important that the Church hear the testimony of their sponsors about their readiness.

Bishop addresses the sponsors.

Bishop: Sponsors, have they faithfully listened to the Word of God and reflected sufficiently on the tradition of the Church?

Sponsors: Yes, they have!

Bishop: Have they joined their sisters and brothers in prayer and Christian community?

Sponsors: Yes, they have!

- Bishop: Do you consider them ready and worthy to be called to share with us at the table of the Lord?
- Sponsors: Yes, I do!
- Bishop: Let their names be called.

The presenter goes to the microphone and reads the names of the baptised candidates from the parishes.

Presenter: From the parishes of...

After reading the names, the delegate takes the book to the Bishop for signing.

After all the books are signed, the Bishop goes with the parish delegate to meet the sponsors and candidates. The delegate introduces the sponsors and the sponsors then introduce the candidate to the Bishop.

The Bishop now addresses the assembly.

Bishop: My sisters and brothers in this assembly: You have gathered here with these candidates in their request to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church. I now ask you to give an indication of your approval and support as we all move toward Easter.

Assembly responds with applause.

Bishop: My sisters and brothers, you are most welcome. You have already been enriched by your Christian Baptism, and I ask you to continue to allow its power to unfold.

> As the Elect are now to prepare during Lent for their initiation into the Church, I ask you: Are you ready to join with them and the rest of the Catholic community in spending the weeks of Lent in prayerful preparation for the coming celebration of Easter?

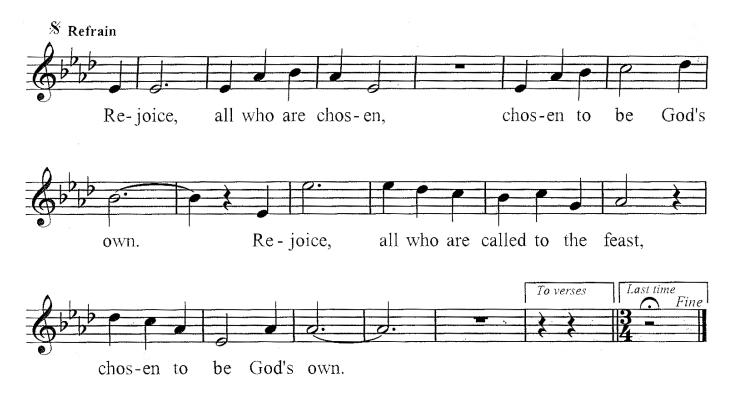
Candidates: We are.

Bishop: Use this time of preparation well. Through prayer, good works and fasting, prepare to renew your baptismal commitment at Easter. Take to heart the Word of God as proclaimed and lived by the Church, and at Easter come to be fed at the table of God's Word and at the table of our Eucharist with joyful and thankful hearts. With the help of your sponsors and the Christian community, may your faith come to a new maturity.

The candidates return to their places. During this time the following is sung:

Acclamation:

CHOSEN TO BE GOD'S OWN



CONCLUDING PRAYER

Please stand

Bishop: We conclude with a prayer for us all.

Lord God,

you created the human race, and you are author of its renewal in Jesus Christ. Bless your adopted children: These Elect, these baptised people seeking full participation in the Easter mysteries, and everyone here present.

As true children of the promise, may all those numbered among the Elect rejoice in eternal life which is won not by the power of nature, but through the mystery of your grace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Bishop:	Blessed be the name of the Lord.	
All:	Now and forever.	
Bishop:	Our help is in the name of the Lord.	
All:	Who made heaven and earth.	
Bishop:	May Almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.	
All:	Amen.	
Bishop:	Friends, God has chosen you in love and has called you to renewal during this season of Lent. Seek the Lord and his strength; seek always the face of the Lord. Go, in the peace of Christ.	
All:	Thanks be to God.	
Concluding Hymn: PILGRIMS OF HOPE (OFFICIAL HYM OF THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025)		

- Refrain: Like a flame my hope is burning, may my song arise to you: Source of life that has no ending, on life's path I trust in you.
 - 1. Ev'ry nation, tongue, and people find a light within your Word. Scattered fragile sons and daughters find a home in your dear Son. *R*.
 - 2. Raise your eyes, the wind is blowing, for our God is born in time. Son made man for you and many who will find the way in him. *R*.

Copyright & Acknowledgements:

Together, We Build Our Place: © Roger Hillman. 2024 All rights reserved. Used with permission in the Diocese of Ballarat.

Ps 27 – Do Not Be Afraid by C Willcock: Verses text © 1963, The Grail (England). All rights reserved. Used with permission of A.P. Watt, Ltd. Music and refrain text © 1974, Christopher Willcock, SJ. Published by OCP, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-640279.

Celtic Alleluia: © 1985, Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License # A-640279

Chosen to be God's Own by R Manalo: © 2000, Ricky Manalo. Published by OCP, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-640279.

Pilgrims of Hope: Original text: Pierangelo Sequeri English translation: Andrew Wadsworth Music: Francesco Meneghello <u>https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/inno-giubileo-2025.html</u>

At the conclusion of the ceremony, all Catechumens, Candidates, their families and parish teams are invited to join the Bishop for light refreshments in St Patrick's Cathedral Hall.

