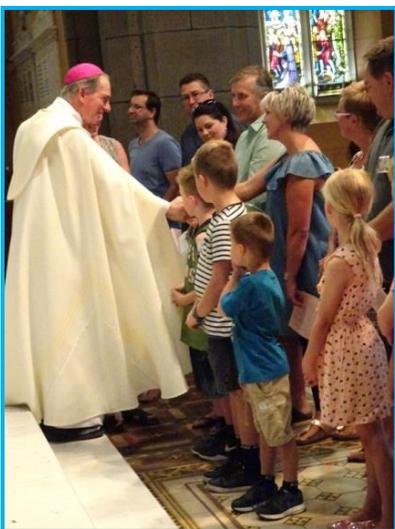




## RITE OF ELECTION 2016

On Saturday, February 13, those involved in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and Children in their parishes gathered at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat for the Rite of Election.

The Liturgy was celebrated by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR assisted by the Diocesan Master of Ceremonies, Fr Gary Jones and Fr Justin Driscoll, the Vicar General in the role of Presenter. The celebration began with the Liturgy of the Word followed by the presentation of eight Catechumens from the Parishes of Ballarat East, Colac, Edenhope, Gordon, Warrnambool and Wendouree with apologies from Our Lady Help of Christians, Warrnambool East. The Catechumens, accompanied by their Godparents and Parish Delegates, were called forward to Bishop Paul. After the Bishop questioned their preparation he declared them to be members of the Elect and each Catechumen was personally introduced to the Bishop by their Godparents.

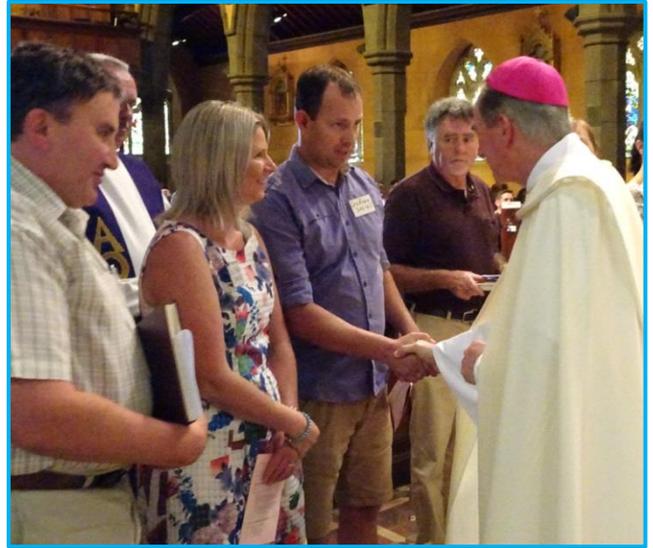


The next group to be presented to Bishop Paul were the children enrolled in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children. Six children from St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, three children from Redan, one from Sebastopol and two from Wendouree were presented. After being greeted by Bishop Paul they were instructed on their role and the responsibility of their parents and godparents in their journey to full initiation into the Catholic Church.

The third group to be named and presented to Bishop Paul were the seven baptised candidates who expressed their desire for full communion in the Catholic Church. The candidates came from the Parishes of Ballarat Cathedral, Ballarat East, Ballarat North and Swan Hill, with an apology also from Our Lady Help of Christians, Warrnambool East. They proclaimed their intention to spend the weeks of Lent in prayerful preparation for the coming celebration of Easter and reception into the Church.

Following the blessing and dismissal all present joined the Bishop for a delightful lunch in St Patrick's Hall. In speaking with some of the adult Elect after the ceremony they expressed very positive feelings of being made

very welcome by Bishop Paul, making the whole experience most embracing and engendered a feeling of fulfilment that this was where they wanted to be. The Rite of Election is one of many occasions in the Diocese that give witness to the work of the Spirit.



*Kay Curran – Cathedral Parish*