

Rite of Election

Diocese of Ballarat

2018

RITE OF ELECTION OF CATECHUMENS
and
PRESENTATION OF BAPTISED CANDIDATES

- CELEBRANT:** Most Rev Paul Bird CSsR
Bishop of Ballarat
- PRESENTER:** Rev Justin Driscoll ADM
Vicar General
- GOSPEL:** Fr Gary Jones PP
Creswick & Daylesford
- HOMILY:** Most Rev Paul Bird CSsR
- PARTICIPANTS:** Priests and people from parishes
of the Diocese of Ballarat
- READER:** Julie Foley
St Mary's Parish
Colac
- MUSICIANS &
CHOIR** St Patrick's Cathedral Parish
Ballarat
- WELCOMERS:** St Patrick's Cathedral Parish
Ballarat

ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, BALLARAT.

February 17, 2018

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Rite of Election - 2018

STAND

Gathering Song

THE SUMMONS

J Bell

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

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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,
one God forever and ever.

All: Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

SIT

First Reading: Romans 10: 8-13

Responsorial Psalm: PS 27 - DO NOT BE AFRAID C Willcock

Repeat refrain after cantor



Do not be a - fraid, I am with you; I have
called you by your name, you are mine; I have
called you by your name, you are mine.

Text: Psalm 27 © 1993, The Grail; refrain I © 1975, Christopher Willcock, refrain II Tran. © 1969, ICEL.
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Gospel Acclamation: MAY THE WORD BE A LAMP D Haas

STAND

May the Word be a lamp for our feet, and a
(your)

light to guide our path!
(your)

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Gospel: John 15:12-17 Fr Gary Jones

Homily

PRESENTATION & ELECTION OF CATECHUMENS

Presenter: Bishop Paul,

As Easter draws near, these catechumens and candidates 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 will be allowed to 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 sanctuary 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 parish 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 in this time of Lent, to reach the fullness of truth which your election opens up for you. Use this 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.

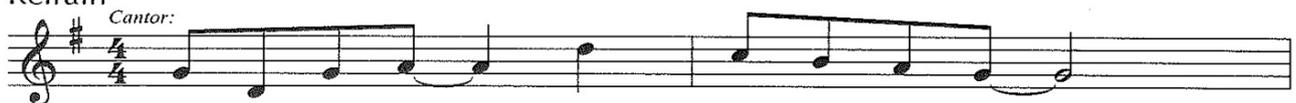
Catechumens and godparents return to their place in the Assembly as the following is sung:

Acclamation:

BLESSED BE GOD

D Haas

Refrain



Bless-ed be God! O Bless-ed be God!



Bless-ed be God! O Bless-ed be God! Who



calls you by name! Who calls you by name!



Ho - ly and cho - sen one!



Ho - ly and cho - sen one!

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

PRESENTATION & ELECTION OF THE CHILDREN

Presenter: Bishop Paul,

These children, whom I now present to you, are completing their preparation for Christian initiation. God's love has strengthened them, and their communities have supported them with prayer and good example.

As Easter approaches, they ask to be admitted to the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Bishop: My dear children who are to be chosen in Christ, come forward now with your parents and godparents.

The children, with their parish representative and accompanied by their godparent OR a parent, come forward and stand around the front of the Sanctuary.

Affirmation by the Parents & Godparents

Bishop: Dear parents and godparents: These children have asked to be initiated into the sacramental life of the Church this Easter. In the name of God's holy Church, I invite you to give your recommendation on their behalf.

He addresses the parents/godparents:

Have these children shown themselves to be sincere in their desire for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist?

Parents / godparents: They have.

Bishop: Have they listened well to the word of God?

Parents / godparents: They have.

Bishop: Have they tried to live as faithful followers of Christ?

Parents / godparents: They have.

Bishop: Have they taken part in this community's life of prayer and service?

Parents / godparents: They have.

Invitation and Enrolment of Names

Then addressing the children in the following or similar words, the Bishop advises them of their acceptance and asks them to declare their own intention.

Bishop: My dear children, your parents and godparents have spoken in your favour. The Church in the name of Christ accepts their word and calls you to the Easter sacraments.

Now you must let the whole Church know that you have heard Christ calling you and that you want to follow him.

Therefore, do you wish to enter fully into the life of the Church through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist?

Children: We do

Bishop: Let their names be called for enrolment.

The presenter goes to the microphone and says:

Presenter: Bishop Paul,

These are the children for admission to the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist from the parish of *(Name of the parish followed by the list of names of the children.....)*

The book is then taken to the Bishop to be signed. After all the books are signed, the Bishop goes with the parish representative to meet the children with their parents and godparents.

Act of Admission or Election

After all children have been presented to the Bishop he says:

Bishop: These children have been accepted to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. This means that they begin a lifelong journey within the Catholic community, supported by their parents, godparents and the Christian community within which they will live and worship.

Then, turning to the children, he says:

Bishop: My dear children, I am happy to declare you among the elect of God. You have chosen to be initiated at Easter through the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Children: Thanks be to God.

Bishop: God is always faithful to those he calls. On your part children, you must strive to know, love and serve the Lord more and more with each passing day. Continue to rely upon your godparents, parents and teachers for the help you will need to be faithful to the way of Jesus.

Then the Bishop addresses the parents and godparents:

Bishop: Dear friends, you have spoken in favour of these young catechumens. Accept them as chosen in the Lord. Encourage them to live the way of the Gospel. Offer them the support of your love and concern. And, above all, be a good model to them of Christian living so that by your example they may grow deeper in the faith of the Church.

He invites the godparent / parent to place their hand on the shoulder of the candidate whom they are receiving into their care and asks all parents to stand.

RECOGNITION OF THE PARENTS & GODPARENT(S)

Bishop: Parents and Godparents, it is your responsibility to nurture the faith of these children. Together you must assist them to grow in faith and love, following the way of Jesus and building a strong relationship with God which will accompany them throughout their life.

The Bishop then raises outstretched hands over the parents and godparents and says:

Bishop: May Almighty God bring joy to your hearts as you see the hope of eternal life shine on these elect. Steadfastly bear witness to your faith by what you say and do. May these children grow as faithful members of God's holy people. And may you be a constant support to each other, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Parents and godparents: Amen.

Assembly responds with applause.

Children and parents / godparents return to their places and the following acclamation is sung:

Acclamation:

BLESSED BE GOD

D Haas

**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: *(Name of the parishes)*

The candidates, sponsors and delegates move to the foot of the sanctuary 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.

He addresses the sponsors.

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 parish 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.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

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 Song:

THE SUMMONS (VERSE 5)

J Bell

Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

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