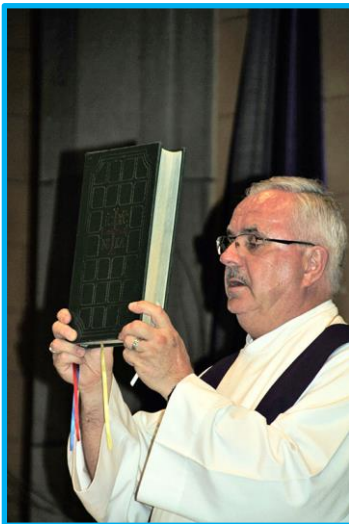




## RITE OF ELECTION

On Saturday, March 4, the people of the Diocese of Ballarat gathered at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat to celebrate the Rite of Election. This Rite celebrates the Church's discernment of the call of God to the catechumens and the catechumens' response to this call.

Bishop Paul Bird CSsR, assisted by the Diocesan Master of Ceremonies, Fr Gary Jones, welcomed catechumens, candidates and children enrolled in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children, together with Priests, Parish Delegates, Godparents, Sponsors, Catechists and RCIA team members to the ceremony. Following the Liturgy of the Word, Fr Justin Driscoll, Vicar General, presented the adult catechumens proposed for election by the parishes of Ballarat Cathedral, Ballarat North, Colac, Gordon, Redan and Warrnambool.



Godparents were questioned as to the preparation and readiness of the catechumens and the faith community present were asked by Bishop Paul to indicate their approval that the catechumens be invited to the Easter Sacraments. After the calling of the names of the catechumens the Bishop accepted them as the Elect. Fourteen adult catechumens and seven children of catechetical age were accepted as members of the Elect to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the coming celebration of Easter. Also presented to Bishop Paul were ten baptised adult candidates and four children of catechetical age, who wished to be received into full communion and participate fully in the sacramental life of the Catholic Church.

Following a great, spirit filled liturgical celebration the Elect and candidates, together with Bishop Paul, their families and parish support groups, gathered in St Patrick's Hall for lunch. This celebration provided an experience of the diocesan church for the Elect and the candidates, as well as a great social opportunity for all to enjoy friendly hospitality over a shared meal.

*Kay Curran - RCIA Team, St Patrick's Cathedral Parish*

