



SHROVE TUESDAY 2020

The student leaders of the Catholic Secondary Colleges in Ballarat, Damascus College, St Patrick's College and Loreto College, gathered at St Patrick's Cathedral on February 25, the day before the beginning of Lent to acknowledge their role in their colleges. This is a tradition that has been an annual feature of the colleges since Bishop Connors came to Ballarat with Fr Justin Driscoll, this year, presiding on behalf of Bishop Paul Bird. Fr Justin challenged the school leaders to follow Jesus' witness and to reach out to those most in need this year. He especially recommended that young leaders consider the 10th Anniversary of the Charter of Compassion as an inspiration for action this Lent. He quoted the charter.



"The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect."

The ceremony was a simple celebration of the Mass, moving from the font, recalling our baptismal commitment in a Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling, to the lectern and the proclamation of God's Word and finally around the altar for Eucharist. The dismissal included a blessing of the Ashes that would be used by the Colleges in Ash Wednesday ceremonies the following day. The launch of Project Compassion was conducted after communion and before the final blessing with the assistance of local Caritas Director, Sue Searles. Fr Justin joined the students in the garden of the Cathedral for the traditional Shrove Tuesday pancakes.

Tony Haintz – Damascus College Ballarat

