

A tradition that has been an annual feature of College life since Bishop Connors came to Ballarat was held again on February 12 with the Vicar General, Fr Justin Driscoll celebrating Mass. 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 the day before the beginning of Lent to acknowledge their role in their colleges.

The ceremony was a simple celebration, 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.

Project Compassion was launched 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 pancakes, this year cooked by Timor-Leste Immersion helpers.

*Damascus College Ballarat*

