



## MASS OF THE OILS 2018

On Monday, March 26, the beginning of Holy Week, St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat was filled with priests and people from around the Diocese for the Mass of the Oils. This Mass is very special to our Diocese as it is the annual celebration of the Diocesan Church of Ballarat. The gathering celebrates the unity of the Diocese where priests, religious and laity renew their commitment to call to serve in Christ's name as baptised members of his Church and sharers in his mission. The Holy Oils were blessed and consecrated and were distributed to all the communities of our Diocese for the celebration of the Sacraments.

The Oils – Oil of the Sick, Oil of Baptism and the Holy Chrism - will reach those in our Diocese who become sick and are anointed; every baby in our Diocese who is baptised; every young person and adult in our Diocese who are fully initiated into the community of the Church.

Concelebrant for the Mass was Fr Kevin Lenehan who is celebrating his 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee this year. Peter Cay, William Lowry and Matthew Restall, the seminarians from the Ballarat Diocese were also in attendance.



Members of the diocese fulfilling ministries at the Mass this year were:

### **Oil of the Sick Procession:**

Sr Teresa Clare csn – Nazareth House, Ballarat

Peter Cay – Seminarian for the Diocese of Ballarat

Margaret Allan – St Brendan's Parish, Cororooke

Marie O'Brien – President, North Western Central Council, St Vincent de Paul Society

*Flagon:* Caron Whitefield – Pastoral Associate, St John of God Ballarat Hospital

### **Oil of Catechumen Procession:**

Angela Carr – Parish Co-ordinator: St Patrick's Parish, Gordon

William Lowry – Seminarian for the Diocese of Ballarat

Dr Sandra Harvey – Catholic Education Office Ballarat, Assistant Director - System Improvement

Noeline Hogan – Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Ministry Project Worker

*Flagon:* Deborah Lambourn – Catechumen: St Columba's Parish, Ballarat North

### **Oil of Chrism Procession:**

Karen Johnson – St Pius X Parish, West Warrnambool and Dennington

Allan Jubber – Candidate: St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat

Laura Parsons – Candidate: St Patrick's Parish, Gordon

Emma Barlow – Candidate: St Columba's Parish, Ballarat North

*Flagon:* Fr Kevin Lenehan – Jubilarian: Ordination to the Priesthood

*Perfume:* Sophie Lambourn – Confirmation Candidate: St Columba's Parish, Ballarat North

### **First Reading:**

Christine Hall – Parish Co-ordinator, St Patrick's Parish, Gordon

### **Second Reading:**

Paul O'Beirne – Diocesan Pastoral Council Member and St Alipius Parish, Ballarat East

### **Gospel Procession:**

Rachel Smith - Diocesan Social Justice Commission, Executive Member for Catholic Education Office Ballarat

**Presentation of the Gifts:** Sr Tirsa Bale cssjb – Pastoral Associate, Ss Michael & John’s Parish, Horsham and Sr Manuela Cabigas cssjb – Diocesan RCIA and Sacramental Facilitator

**Preparation of the Oils:** Bill Adriaans, Clare Adriaans, Joan Bowman, Julie Boyd, Pat Conroy, Merle Leach, Dorothy Ludwell, Luzaria Micich, June Staehr, Sheila Wilton.

The music was beautifully led by Choir Conductor Mr Roger Hillman, Organist Mr Geoff Martin, Flutist Adrian Newman and choir members from the Cathedral and surrounding parishes. The Cantor for the evening was Majella Muller from St Patrick’s Cathedral Parish, Ballarat and St Francis Xavier Primary School, Ballarat East who performed a beautiful rendition of the psalm.

Before the final blessing, Anne Eskdale from the Diocesan Pastoral Council called representatives of the parishes of the Diocese forward to collect the Oils for their parish. These Oils will then be received in the parishes at Mass on Holy Thursday evening.

There are many people involved in the success of this Mass and thanks is extended to those who prepared the oils, participated in the various ministries, collected the Oils for their parishes, the Altar Servers, welcomers, ushers, those responsible for the décor in the Cathedral, Kay Curran for overseeing the set-up for the Mass and Sally Morris for catering and members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission.

Following Mass, all gathered in St Patrick’s Hall for supper.

Bishop Paul Bird’s Homily can be read below.





Photos:

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Processing in</li> <li>8. Christine Hall</li> <li>9. Paul O'Beirne</li> <li>10. Majella Muller</li> <li>11. Bishop Paul and Priests of the diocese</li> <li>12. Fr Kevin Lenehan, Bishop Peter Connors, Bishop Paul Bird, Fr Kevin Maloney, Fr Justin Driscoll</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Sr Teresa Clare csn, Peter Cay, Margaret Allan, Marie O'Brien, Caron Whitefield</li> <li>2. Parish representatives collecting oils for their parishes</li> <li>3. Parish representatives collecting oils for their parishes</li> <li>4. Parish representatives collecting oils for their parishes</li> <li>5. Sophie and Deborah Lambourn</li> <li>6. The Oils</li> </ol> |
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### Bishop Paul Bird's Homily at the Chrism Mass - Ballarat Cathedral, March 26, 2018

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One day I was celebrating Mass with students from several schools – primary and secondary. There were Preps right through to Year 12s. The Year 12s were at the back. The Preps were sitting on the carpet at the front. The Scripture readings for the Mass referred to the various gifts of people in the community – various gifts that God gives us so that we can serve one another in different ways. I began the homily with some examples of the various talents people have. I said, “Different people have different gifts. At school, some people are good at writing, some people are good at drawing. In sport, some people are good at football, some people are good at cricket.” As soon as I said this, one of the Preps started waving his hand and he called out, “I’m good at cricket!” I was delighted to have that intervention from the Prep student. Suddenly it was not just me talking. That Prep student was engaged. He was applying the homily to himself. From that point on, I felt that the whole group of students were more engaged. The Prep student had given the lead. I had been speaking about the various talents, the various gifts we have. The Prep student focussed on one of the gifts that he had.

Our Mass this evening touches on gifts we have received from God. I invite you to reflect on the gifts that God has given to you, especially the gifts that enable you to serve others. We refer to this evening's celebration as the Chrism Mass or the Mass of the Oils. We have prayers of blessing over oils that we use in some of the sacraments – the Oil of Catechumens, the Oil of Chrism and the Oil of the Sick.

The Oil of Catechumens is used to anoint those who are to be baptised. It can remind us of the gifts we received at our baptism. When a person is anointed with the oil of catechumens we say this prayer: "We anoint you with the oil of salvation in the name of Christ our Saviour; may he strengthen you with his power." As we anoint, we ask that Christ will pour out his strength and power upon the one to be baptised. In baptism we receive the strength and power of the risen Christ. We receive a share in his life so that we are able to live as true Christians and that implies service. Jesus himself said that he had come not to be served but to serve. Likewise with ourselves, in baptism we receive the life of Jesus, the life of one who serves.

The Oil of Chrism is used in the Sacrament of Confirmation. When someone is anointed in Confirmation, we say "Be sealed with the Gift of the Holy Spirit." The anointing is a sign of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. As we heard in this evening's readings from the prophet Isaiah and the gospel of Luke, the Spirit anointed Jesus to bring good news to the poor and bind up hearts that are broken. In Confirmation we too receive the anointing of the Spirit to bring good news to the poor and to bind up hearts that are broken in our day. We too are anointed to comfort those who mourn and to bring them the oil of gladness.

The Oil of Chrism is used also in the ordination of priests. The bishop anoints the candidate's hands with chrism and says, "The Father anointed our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. May Jesus preserve you to sanctify the Christian people and to offer sacrifice to God." The anointing is a fresh outpouring of the Spirit so that the priest might lead the people in living holy lives and giving praise to the heavenly Father.

The Oil of the Sick is used to anoint those who are suffering some illness. Even here there is an element of being anointed for service. We pray that the Holy Spirit might be with the sick person. We pray that, if it be God's will, they might be restored to good health and so be able to serve once again with their former strength, or, if their illness continues, they might serve even through their illness. This was beautifully expressed by Blessed John Henry Newman. "God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I shall do good, I shall do his work. I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place. Even if I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him."

This evening we give thanks for the many ways in which people serve throughout our diocese. We give thanks for the anointings we have received. We recall that we have been anointed to serve. May the Holy Spirit be with us day by day. To those who mourn, may we bring the oil of comfort; to those who suffer, may we bring the oil of kindness; to those who are troubled, may we bring the oil of peace.

*Bishop Paul Bird CSSR*