

RITE OF ELECTION 2019

RCIA teams, catechumens, candidates, godparents and sponsors gathered at St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat to celebrate the Rite of Election on Saturday, March 3. In what had been a most difficult time for all Catholics, it took a great deal of Catholic stamina and prayer to put a smile on one's face and extend the hand of welcome to these amazing people, who have answered God's call to evangelisation. Up to this stage of their journey, the catechumens and candidates have been drawn into the belief and the life of the Church in their own parish situations. The recognition of their call is now celebrated by the Diocesan Church, through the person of the Bishop, in an assembly broader than that of the Parish.

Following a welcome by Bishop Paul Bird and the celebration of the Liturgy of the Word, Fr Justin Driscoll, the Administrator of the Cathedral, introduced the Parishes and named the Adult Catechumens. Bishop Paul questioned the Godparents as to the readiness of each catechumen to proceed to the sacraments. Having received affirmation from the godparents, Bishop Paul accepted the catechumens as members of the Elect.

After each parish presented the Book of the Elect for the Bishop to sign, he greeted and welcomed each member of the Elect. A similar procedure followed for the children of catechetical age, involved in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Children. The final group to be presented to Bishop Paul were the baptised candidates, who were declared members of the Elect. Our liturgy began with the Gathering Hymn, "The Summons - Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?" and concluded with verse five of that hymn, which very aptly portrayed the RCIA Journey of each catechumen and candidate.

Candidates and catechumens from the Parishes of St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat, St Alipius' Ballarat East, St Columba's Ballarat North, St Peter's Daylesford, St Aloysius Redan, St James Sebastopol, St Joseph's Warrnambool and Our Lady Help of Christians Wendouree gathered in the Hall for lunch with the Bishop. (Apologies were received from Sacred Heart Parish Mildura and St Colman's Parish Mortlake) There was a great feeling of camaraderie and celebration throughout the ceremony and the lunch, which bore evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those answering God's call to the Catholic Faith.



Kay Curran



Top: Ava, Amanda, Logan and Dragi Koleski - Daylesford

Left: Ballarat East candidates and sponsors

Right: Marnie Papst, Tess Quilliam, Judy-Ann Quilliam and Tracy Sillekens - Cathedral