

Blessing of statue of St Patrick

**St Patrick's Cathedral
Ballarat on
Wednesday, March 16
(Vigil of St Patrick's Day)
at 7.00pm
by Bishop Paul Bird CSSR**



Statue of St Patrick

Originally donated to St Patrick's Church in Rokewood in 1959 as a gift from John Leemon and Agnes Doyle in memory of their parents and sister, Margaret Mary Leemon, this sculpture of St Patrick is a rare example of high quality polychromatic work. Made in Fitzroy by Mattei Brothers, the statue is of plaster, reinforced with iron rods.

The iconography and symbols connected to St Patrick have often portrayed him as a bearded bishop with mitre, crozier and chasuble and holding the Bible. However, in this sculpture, St Patrick holds a church, a reference to his role in bringing Christianity to Ireland and building up the Church there during the 5th century.

His chasuble is usually marked with a cross but in this case, the statue has been painted with images of the shamrock, a reference to

the tradition that St Patrick used the three-leaved shamrock to explain the doctrine of the Holy Trinity. The inner lining of the chasuble he wears is in the characteristic green of Ireland.

He is represented in this sculpture as standing on two snakes, an allusion to the tradition that St Patrick drove snakes out of Ireland.



Blessing of Statue of St Patrick



Main Celebrant: Bishop Paul Bird CSsR, Bishop of Ballarat

Gospel: Fr Ed Moloney, Administrator of
St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat

**Choir and
musicians:** Members of St Patrick's Cathedral Parish,
Ballarat

Procession: Representatives from St Patrick's Cathedral Parish
and the three Parish Primary Schools:
St Patrick's, Ballarat
Siena, Lucas
St Thomas More, Alfredton

Evening Prayer



Opening Hymn:

CHRIST BE BESIDE ME

All: Christ be beside me, Christ be before me,
Christ be behind me, King of my heart.
Christ be within me, Christ be below me,
Christ be above me, never to part.

Christ on my right hand, Christ on my left hand,
Christ all around me, shield in the strife.
Christ in my sleeping, Christ in my sitting,
Christ in my rising, light of my life.

Christ be in all hearts thinking about me,
Christ be in all tongues telling of me.

All: Christ be the vision in eyes that see me,
in ears that hear me, Christ ever be.

Introduction:

Bishop Paul: In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Bishop Paul: Peace be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Welcome: *Bishop Paul Bird CSsR*

Please be seated

Antiphon 1: I will give you shepherds after my own heart and
these shall feed you on knowledge and true doctrine.

Praise, O servants of the Lord,
praise the name of the Lord!

May the name of the Lord be blessed
both now and for evermore!

From the rising of the sun to its setting
praised be the name of the Lord!

High above all nations is the Lord,
above the heavens his glory.
Who is like the Lord, our God,
who has risen on high to his throne
yet stoops from the heights to look down,
to look down upon heaven and earth?

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,
from his misery he raises the poor
to set him in the company of princes,
yes, with the princes of his people.

To the childless wife he gives a home
and gladdens her heart with children.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the
Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Antiphon: I will give you shepherds after my own heart, and
these shall feed you on knowledge and true doctrine.

Antiphon 2: I will feed my sheep; I will look for the lost one,
bring back the stray.

My soul, give praise to the Lord;
I will praise the Lord all my days,
make music to my God while I live.

Put no trust in princes,
in mortal men in whom there is no help.
Take their breath, the return to clay
and their plans that day come to nothing.

He is happy who is helped by Jacob's God,
whose hope is in the Lord his God,
who alone made heaven and earth,
the seas and all they contain.

It is he who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free,
the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The lord will reign for ever,
Sion's God, from age to age.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Antiphon: I will feed my sheep; I will look for the lost one, bring back the stray.

Antiphon 3: The good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

He chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.

He destined us in love to be his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace which he lavished upon us.

He has made known to us in all wisdom and insight the mystery of his will, according to his purpose which he set forth in Christ.

His purpose he set forth in Christ,
as a plan for the fullness of time,
to unite all things in him,
things in heaven and things on earth.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the
Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Antiphon: The good shepherd is one who lays down his life
for his sheep.

Scripture Reading: Fr Ed Moloney

Fr Ed: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Fr Ed: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Please be seated

Homily: Bishop Paul Bird CSSR

Silent Reflection:

THE DEER'S CRY

Prayer of Blessing:

Please stand

Gracious God, we bless you for you are holy,
and because in your compassion
you sent into the world your Son, Jesus Christ,
the author and perfecter of holiness.

You sent the Spirit to sustain us,
a voice that teaches us the secrets of holiness,
a breeze that strengthens and refreshes,
a fire that warms our hearts in love.

Today we praise you for the gifts of the Spirit
bestowed on Saint Patrick,
in whose honour we dedicate the statue
that now stands in our cathedral.

With Saint Patrick's example to guide us,
may we follow in the footsteps of Christ.
May we proclaim his Gospel by word and deed.
Taking up our cross each day,
may we spend ourselves in your service.

As we journey on our pilgrim way,
may we be filled with your Spirit
and keep our eyes fixed on the glories of heaven,
where you, Father, receive those who will reign
with your Son, for ever and ever. Amen.

Following the prayer, Bishop Paul incenses the altar and the statue of Saint Patrick.

Then Father Ed incenses Bishop Paul and the Congregation.

During the incensing, quiet music is played.

After the incensing, the Magnificat is sung.

Magnificat Antiphon: Your light must shine before people,
so that they may see your good works
and give praise to your Father in heaven.

TELL OUT, MY SOUL

All: Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice;
tender to me the promise of his word;
in God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out my soul, the greatness of his name!
Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done;
his mercy sure, from age to age the same;
his holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might!
Pow'rs and dominions lay their glory by.
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word!
Firm is his promise and his mercy sure.
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
to children's children and for evermore!

Magnificat Antiphon: Your light must shine before people,
so that they may see your good works
and give praise to your Father in heaven.

Intercessions:

Bishop Paul: God our Father has sent us Christ as our Saviour
and the saints as our companions on the way.
Let us pray to God who is always ready to
grant us the gifts we need.

Reader: In times past, God has shown the way through wise and holy leaders; may we always enjoy this sign of God's loving kindness.
Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: God has forgiven sins when holy pastors prayed; may God continually cleanse the Church through the intercession of the saints.
Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: God has anointed missionaries with the Holy Spirit; may God pour out that Spirit on us all that we may be missionary disciples in all we say and do.
Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: Through the witness of the saints, God has led people to the joy of the gospel; through the prayers of the saints, may God lead the faithful departed into the joy of eternal life.
Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Bishop Paul: Gracious God, we ask you to hear the prayers we offer and all the prayers that people offer around the world. We make our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Our Father:

Bishop Paul: We gather all our prayers as we say together the prayer that Jesus gave us.

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Blessing:

Bishop Paul: O God, who chose the Bishop Saint Patrick to preach the good news of Christ, grant, through his intercession, that those who glory in the name of Christian may never cease to proclaim your wondrous deed to all. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

Dismissal:

Bishop Paul: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Bishop Paul: May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Bishop Paul: Go, in the peace of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

Concluding Hymn:

GO NOW, YOU ARE SENT FORTH

All: Go now, you are sent forth to live what you proclaim;
to show the world you follow Christ
in fact, not just in name.

Go now, you are sent forth to walk this troubled earth,
to share your faith with everyone
and prove your real worth.

Go now, you are sent forth as God's ambassador;
by serving him in those we meet,
we love him more and more.

Go now, you are sent forth and Christ goes with you, too.
Today you help his kingdom come
in everything you do.

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Psalms and antiphons from The Divine Office, 1974. Psalm translation, the Grail, 1963.

Gospel translation: The Jerusalem Bible, 1966.

Prayer of Blessing from The Roman Ritual, Book of Blessings, 1989.

Concluding Prayer: The Roman Missal, 2011.

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