



# *Rite of Election*

**Diocese of Ballarat  
2024**

**RITE OF ELECTION OF CATECHUMENS**  
**and**  
**PRESENTATION OF BAPTISED CANDIDATES**

- CELEBRANT:** Most Rev Paul Bird CSsR  
Bishop of Ballarat
- PRESENTER:** Ms Maria Noonan  
St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat
- GOSPEL:** Fr Justin Driscoll, Parish Priest  
St Augustine's, Creswick,  
St Peter's, Daylesford &  
St Patrick's, Gordon
- HOMILY:** Most Rev Paul Bird CSsR
- PARTICIPANTS:** Priests and people from parishes  
of the Diocese of Ballarat
- READER:** Ms Juliana Foley  
St Mary's Parish, Colac
- CANTOR:** Dr Susan Crowe  
Diocesan Liturgical Commission
- MUSICIANS &  
CHOIR:** From the Ballarat parishes
- WELCOMERS:** Members of St Patrick's Cathedral Parish,  
Ballarat

**ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL BALLARAT**

**FEBRUARY 17, 2024**

THIS RITE IS AN ADAPTATION OF THE RITE OF ELECTION FROM THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS. © 1974 INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF ENGLISH IN THE LITURGY.

# Rite of Election - 2024

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

### **Presenter:**

In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's spiritual and cultural connection to Country, we acknowledge the traditional custodians of the different lands on which we meet to celebrate and worship.

We recognise the continued care of the lands and waterways passed from generation to generation, wisdom that is shared, and life that is celebrated in harmony with the natural environment.

We honour the Elders past and present who have laid the foundations, traditions, and culture for emerging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and we commit to working together for reconciliation and justice.

*Please stand*

### Gathering Hymn

### THE SUMMONS

J Bell

**All:** Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown?  
Will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

**Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**

## ***INTRODUCTORY RITE***

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

**All:** Amen.

**Bishop:** Peace be with you.

**All:** And with your spirit.

*The Bishop welcomes all.*

### **Opening Prayer**

**Bishop:** Let us pray.  
Almighty God, you always work to save us,  
and now we rejoice in the great love you give  
your chosen people.

Protect all who are about to become your children  
through Baptism and those who now seek  
full communion with us.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
your Son, who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Please Sit*

**First Reading:** Romans 10: 8-13

**Responsorial Psalm:** PS 27 - DO NOT BE AFRAID C Willcock

*Repeat refrain after cantor*

Do not be a - fraid, I am with you; I have  
called you by your name, you are mine; I have  
called you by your name, you are mine.

The musical notation is in G minor (one flat) and 4/4 time. It consists of three staves of music. The first staff contains the first line of lyrics, the second staff the second line, and the third staff the third line. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear refrain structure.

**Gospel Acclamation:** LENTEN ACCLAMATION M Haugen

*Please stand*

Praise to you, Lord Je-sus, king of end - less glo-ry,  
Sav-iour of the world, Sav-iour of the world.

The musical notation is in D major (two sharps) and 3/4 time. It consists of two staves of music. The first staff contains the first line of lyrics, and the second staff the second line. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a clear refrain structure.

**Gospel:** John 15:12-17 Fr Justin Driscoll

**Homily:** Bishop Paul Bird CSsR

*Please sit*

## PRESENTATION & ELECTION OF CATECHUMENS

Presenter: Bishop Paul,

As Easter draws near, catechumens are completing their period of preparation. They have been strengthened by God's grace and supported by their parish communities' example and prayers. Now they request that after further preparation, they may receive the Easter sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Bishop: Let those who are to be chosen for the Easter sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist be called.

*Catechumens with their godparents / sponsors and parish delegate move to stand at the foot of the altar as their parish is named.*

Presenter: Bishop Paul,

I present to you the catechumens proposed for election by the parishes of ....

Bishop: The Church wishes to know whether these catechumens are sufficiently prepared to be enrolled among the Elect for the coming celebration of Easter. Do their catechists and parish RCIA teams attest that they have received suitable instruction in the Gospel and are living it in accordance with the tradition of the Church?

Presenter: Their preparation has been as varied as the catechumens themselves, but on the recommendation of their parish communities, I can assure you that they have been given adequate formation.



Bishop: Godparents, I wish to ask you:  
Have these catechumens faithfully listened to God's  
Word proclaimed by the Church?

**Godparents: Yes, they have!**

Bishop: Have they responded to that word and begun to walk in  
God's presence?

**Godparents: Yes, they have!**

Bishop: Have they shared the company of their Christian sisters  
and brothers and joined with them in prayer?

**Godparents: Yes, they have!**

Bishop: And you, the Christian community gathered here, as  
you have assembled to be with these catechumens, I  
now ask you to give an indication of your approval that  
they now be invited to come to the Easter sacraments.

*Assembly responds with applause.*

## **PRESENTATION OF NAMES**

Bishop: My dear catechumens, your godparents and catechists  
and this entire community have spoken in your favour.

The Church in the name of Christ accepts their  
judgement, and calls you to the Easter sacraments.

Since you have already heard the call of Christ, you  
must now express your response to that call clearly, and  
in the presence of the Church. Therefore, do you wish  
to enter fully into the life of the Church through the  
sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist?

**Catechumens: I do.**

Bishop: Let the names of these Catechumens be called that I can accept them as members of the Elect.

*The presenter reads the names.*

Presenter: These are the names of the Elect from the parishes of...

*After the reading of names, the delegate takes the book to the Bishop to be signed and then returns to stand with their parish group. After all the books are signed, the Bishop then goes to meet the catechumens and their godparents. The parish delegate introduces the godparent to the Bishop and the godparent introduces the catechumen to the Bishop.*

## ELECTION OF CATECHUMENS

Bishop: My sisters and brothers,  
I now declare you to be members of the Elect, to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the coming celebration of Easter.

**Catechumens: Thanks be to God.**

Bishop: God is always faithful to us;  
now it is your duty, as it is ours, to be faithful to God in return, and to strive courageously, especially during Lent, to reach the fullness of truth which your election opens up for you. Use the time of Lent well, to prepare yourself through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, to experience what it is to die to sin with Christ, and to rise with him to newness of life.

Godparents, you have spoken in favour of these catechumens; place your hand upon their shoulder...



*Each godparent places their right hand on the shoulder of the catechumen they have accompanied.*

accept them now as chosen in the Lord.

Continue to sustain them through your loving care and example as they come to share in the sacraments of God's life.

*Catechumens and godparents return to their place in the Assembly as the following is sung:*

**Acclamation:**

**CHOSEN TO BE GOD'S OWN**

**R Manalo**

♩ Refrain

Re-joyce, all who are chos-en, chos-en to be God's  
own. Re-joyce, all who are called to the feast,  
chos-en to be God's own.

*After the Election of the Adult Catechumens concludes, the Presentation and Election of Baptised Candidates takes place.*

## PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF BAPTISED CANDIDATES

Presenter: Bishop Paul,

I also present to you a group already numbered among the Elect by virtue of their Baptism. They now wish to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Catholic Church.

Bishop: You who wish to be received and participate fully in the life of the Church please stand, with your sponsors.

The candidates and their sponsors and the parish delegates stand in their places.

Presenter: Bishop Paul,

I present to you these baptised candidates who now wish to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church. They come upon the recommendation of the parishes of....

*The candidates, sponsors and delegates move to the foot of the altar as their parish is named*

Bishop: The Christian life and the demands that flow from the sacraments cannot be taken lightly. Therefore, before granting these candidates their request to share fully in the Church's sacraments, it is important that the Church hear the testimony of their sponsors about their readiness.

*He addresses the sponsors.*

Bishop: Sponsors, have they faithfully listened to the Word of God and reflected sufficiently on the tradition of the Church?

**Sponsors: Yes, they have!**

Bishop: Have they joined their sisters and brothers in prayer and Christian community?

**Sponsors: Yes, they have!**

Bishop: Do you consider them ready and worthy to be called to share with us at the table of the Lord?

**Sponsors: Yes, I do!**

Bishop: Let their names be called.

*The presenter goes to the microphone and reads the names of the baptised candidates from the parishes.*

Presenter: From the parishes of...

*After reading the names, the delegate takes the book to the Bishop for signing.*

*After all the books are signed, the Bishop goes with the parish delegate to meet the sponsors and candidates. The delegate introduces the sponsors and the sponsors then introduce the candidate to the Bishop.*

*The Bishop now addresses the assembly.*

Bishop: My sisters and brothers in this assembly:  
You have gathered here with these candidates in their request to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church. I now ask you to give an indication of your approval and support as we all move toward Easter.

*Assembly responds with applause.*

Bishop: My sisters and brothers, you are most welcome. You have already been enriched by your Christian Baptism, and I ask you to continue to allow its power to unfold.

As the Elect are now to prepare during Lent for their initiation into the Church, I ask you:

Are you ready to join with them and the rest of the Catholic community in spending the weeks of Lent in prayerful preparation for the coming celebration of Easter?

**Candidates: We are.**

Bishop: Use this time of preparation well. Through prayer, good works and fasting, prepare to renew your baptismal commitment at Easter. Take to heart the Word of God as proclaimed and lived by the Church, and at Easter come to be fed at the table of God's Word and at the table of our Eucharist with joyful and thankful hearts. With the help of your sponsors and the Christian community, may your faith come to a new maturity.

*The candidates return to their places. During this time the following is sung:*

**Acclamation:**

**CHOSEN TO BE GOD'S OWN**

R Manalo

§ Refrain

Re-joice, all who are chos-en, chos-en to be God's  
own. Re-joice, all who are called to the feast,  
chos-en to be God's own.

*To verses* *Last time*  
*Fine*

The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and a common time signature (C). It consists of three lines of music. The first line begins with a repeat sign and the word 'Refrain'. The lyrics are 'Re-joice, all who are chos-en, chos-en to be God's'. The second line continues with 'own. Re-joice, all who are called to the feast,'. The third line concludes with 'chos-en to be God's own.' and includes performance directions: 'To verses' and 'Last time' above the final measure, and 'Fine' below it. The final measure is marked with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

**CONCLUDING PRAYER**

*Please stand*

Bishop: We conclude with a prayer for us all.

Lord God,  
you created the human race, and you are author of its  
renewal in Jesus Christ. Bless your adopted children:  
These Elect, these baptised people seeking full  
participation in the Easter mysteries, and everyone here  
present.

As true children of the promise, may all those  
numbered among the Elect rejoice in eternal life which  
is won not by the power of nature, but through the  
mystery of your grace.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## ***BLESSING AND DISMISSAL***

Bishop: Blessed be the name of the Lord.

**All: Now and forever.**

Bishop: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

**All: Who made heaven and earth.**

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

**All: Amen.**

Bishop: Friends, God has chosen you in love and has called you  
to renewal during this season of Lent. Seek the Lord  
and his strength; seek always the face of the Lord.  
Go, in the peace of Christ.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Concluding Hymn: THE SUMMONS (VERSES 4 & 5)**

J Bell

**All: Will you love the "you" you hide if I  
but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you  
and you in me?**

**Lord your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In Your company I'll go  
where Your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you  
and you in me.**



### Copyright & Acknowledgements

The Summons by John Bell: Tune & Text: © 1987, WGRG, Iona Community. Administered in Australia and New Zealand by Willow Publishing Pty Ltd. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-640279.

Ps 27 - Do Not Be Afraid by C Willcock: Verses text © 1963, The Grail (England). All rights reserved. Used with permission of A.P. Watt, Ltd. Music and refrain text © 1974, Christopher Willcock, SJ. Published by OCP, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-640279.

Lenten Acclamation by Marty Haugen. Tune & text: © 1983, GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-640279.

Chosen to be God's Own by R Manalo: © 2000, Ricky Manalo. Published by OCP, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-640279.

*At the conclusion of the hymn,  
all Catechumens, Candidates,  
their families and parish teams  
are invited to join the Bishop  
for light refreshments in  
St Patrick's Cathedral  
Hall.*

CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE  
of  
BALLARAT

