

## ***Fifth Sunday of Easter, April 28, 2024***

### ***Marking 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Ballarat***

#### ***Introductory Rite***

##### ***Sign of the Cross and Greeting***

##### ***Introduction to the Celebration***

This is our 150th year as the Diocese of Ballarat and Bishop Paul has proposed that we celebrate the anniversary particularly today in all the Masses throughout the diocese. In union with communities in all our parishes, we acknowledge the 150 years. We remember those who have gone before us, those who have laid the foundations of our parishes and schools. The anniversary is an opportunity to review our history, recognising both strengths and weaknesses. It is a chance to take stock of where we are now and look ahead to how we can live as a truly Christian community in the future. May we be one with Christ, as the branches are one with the vine in today's gospel. That way we will bear good fruit. Let's pray for a few moments in silence.

##### ***Brief pause for silent prayer***

Lord Jesus, you are the vine and we are the branches: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Christ Jesus, you make your home in us: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you call us to bear fruit that will last: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

Response: Amen.

##### ***Glory to God***

Glory to God in the highest . . .

##### ***Collect***