



# *Rite of Election*

**Diocese of Ballarat**  
**2026**

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

- CELEBRANT:** Most Rev Paul Bird CSsR  
Apostolic Administrator of Ballarat
- PRESENTER:** Maria Noonan  
Cathedral Parish, Ballarat
- READER:** Alixina Mack  
Saints Anne & Joachim Parish, Sunraysia
- GOSPEL:** Fr Marcello Colasante, Vicar General &  
Parish Priest Our Lady Help of Christians,  
Wendouree, St Augustine's, Creswick &  
St Peter's, Daylesford
- HOMILY:** Most Rev Paul Bird CSsR
- PARTICIPANTS:** Priests and people from parishes  
of the Diocese of Ballarat
- CANTOR:** Dr Susan Crowe  
Diocesan Liturgical Commission
- ORGANIST:** Mrs Helen Lee  
Cathedral Parish, Ballarat
- CHOIR:** From the Ballarat parishes
- WELCOMERS:** Members of the Cathedral Parish, Ballarat

**ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL BALLARAT**

**FEBRUARY 21, 2026**

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# *Rite of Election - 2026*

## **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**

**TOGETHER, WE BUILD OUR PLACE**

R Hillman

**Refrain: We are called to be your hands,  
we are called to be your feet.  
Called to reach out with your love  
to everyone we meet.  
Be strength to all the broken,  
light to all who seek your face.  
To walk your ways, to live each day  
together we build our place.**

1. Each of us has come to share our story;  
to share our gifts, our wisdom faith and love.  
To celebrate the work we do together,  
linked with others journeying in faith. *R.*
2. Each of us is called to work for justice,  
and walk together in God's light and love.  
To recognise God's face in every person,  
and work to build your kingdom here on earth. *R.*

## ***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 Alixina Mack

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

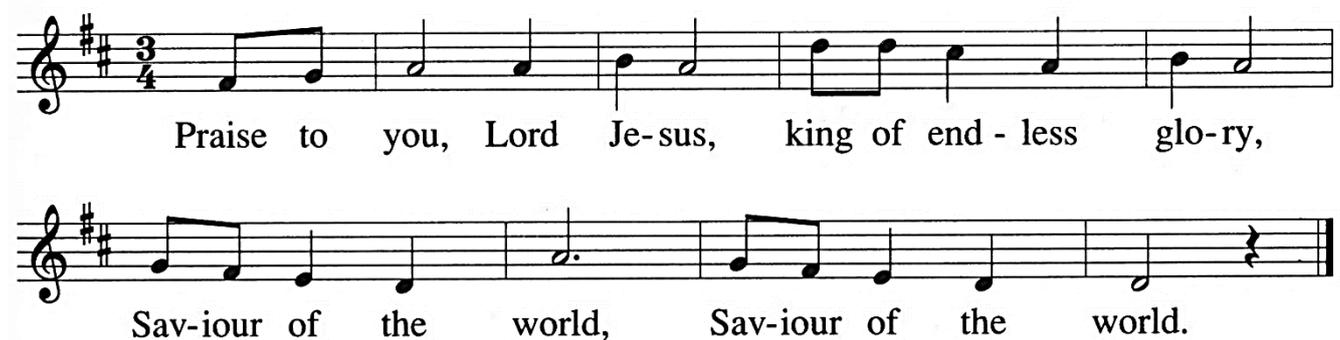
*Repeat refrain after cantor*



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.

**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.

**Gospel:** John 15:12-17 Fr Marcello Colasante

**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...



## 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.

*Bishop 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-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.

*To verses* *Last time Fine*

**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:** PILGRIMS OF HOPE  
(OFFICIAL HYMN OF THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025)

**Refrain:** Like a flame my hope is burning,  
may my song arise to you:  
Source of life that has no ending,  
on life's path I trust in you.

1. Ev'ry nation, tongue, and people  
find a light within your Word.  
Scattered fragile sons and daughters  
find a home in your dear Son. *R.*
2. Raise your eyes, the wind is blowing,  
for our God is born in time.  
Son made man for you and many  
who will find the way in him. *R.*

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

CATHOLIC  
DIOCESE  
of  
BALLARAT

