



**EPISCOPAL ORDINATION
AND INSTALLATION**

**Most Reverend
Mark Freeman**

**NINTH BISHOP
OF BALLARAT**



**The Catholic Diocese of Ballarat
welcomes you to the
Episcopal Ordination and
Installation of**

Mark William Freeman

as Ninth Bishop of Ballarat

**St Patrick's Cathedral Ballarat
Thursday, March 19, 2026
at 11.00am**

Livestream link

<https://youtube.com/live/sEk0FrdqA7c?feature=share>

Bishop Mark William Freeman

NINTH BISHOP OF BALLARAT



BIOGRAPHY



Fr Mark Freeman was born in Launceston Tasmania in 1959. He grew up as the third of six children (3 girls, 3 boys) of Mary & George Freeman. Fr Mark was educated by the Presentation Sisters at St Finn Barr's School, Invermay, and by the Christian Brothers at St Patrick's College, Launceston.

Seminary studies were undertaken at Corpus Christi College, Clayton, Victoria. While in the Seminary, Fr Mark completed a Bachelor of Theology degree at the Melbourne College of Divinity and a Bachelor of Arts degree at Monash University. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Hobart by Archbishop Guilford Young at St Finn Barr's Church, Invermay on August 24, 1984.

He has spent most of his life as a priest working in parishes throughout Tasmania, including 11 years on the Northwest Coast as the Moderator of the new Mersey Leven Parish. Between 2010–2022, he was the Parish Priest of Launceston in Northern Tasmania before being appointed in 2022 as Parish Priest of Bellerive–Lindisfarne on Hobart’s Eastern Shore, his last parish in Tasmania. Here Fr Mark has worked closely with the staff and students of the three Catholic Primary Schools and also MacKillop Catholic College, Mornington. From 2005–2017, Fr Mark served as Vicar General for both Archbishop Adrian Doyle and his successor Archbishop Julian Porteous. In 2023, he was appointed as Chancellor of the Archdiocese. In December 2025, Archbishop Anthony Ireland appointed Fr Mark as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia.

Between 1993 and 1996, Fr Mark spent time in Rome studying Patristics at the Augustinianum, an incorporated institute of the Pontifical Lateran University. On his return to Australia, he was elected by the priests of the Archdiocese to be the Director of Clergy Life and Ministry. He was a member of the National Commission for Clergy Life and Ministry from 2000–2006. For most of that time Mark was the Commission’s Chair. In 2007 he was appointed to the Council for Australian Catholic Women. In 2013 he was appointed to the Council for Lay Pastoral Ministry.

Since 2012, Fr Mark presented some 23 Retreats for groups of Clergy around Australia.

On January 7, 2026, Pope Leo XIV appointed Fr Mark William Freeman as the ninth Bishop of Ballarat, succeeding Most Rev Paul Bird CSsR who has been the diocesan bishop since 2012.

MOTTO

“In Faith and Hope and Love”
1 Corinthians 13:13



COAT OF ARMS



In preparation for the assumption of his duties as a diocesan bishop, Fr Mark has adopted arms which may be blazoned, in the language of heraldry:

Azure, a mullet of eight points Argent; overall a Greek cross potent Or; on a chief Or a lion statant Gules holding under its right front paw a pomme charged with three tongues of fire Gules emanating from the center in a pinwheel and irradiated Or.

These arms may be described in plain English:

On a blue field a gold cross with crossbars at all four ends intersecting a silver eight-pointed star (from the arms of Mackillop Catholic College, Mornington, Tasmania) and on a gold chief a red lion statant (referencing both St Mark and Tasmania) holding under its front right paw a green roundel containing three flames (from the logo of St Patrick's College, Launceston, Tasmania).

The bishop's arms are ensigned with the green galero (Roman hat) with six green fiocchi (tassels) on each side.



As is traditional, the Bishop will use his personal arms impaled (or joined) with the arms of the diocese.

The Diocesan arms, which have altered very slightly over the intervening years, may be blazoned:

Argent, a Latin Cross Azure issuant from a grassy mount Vert, a nugget of gold as its base Or.

These arms may be described in plain English:

A blue Latin Cross on a grassy hill with a gold nugget at its base.



The bishop's personal arms were designed by Richard d'Apice AM KCSG and Fr Guy Selvester and the artwork of the bishop's personal arms and the impaled arms has been prepared by Sandy Turnbull.

The designer of the diocesan arms is unclear.

Offices and Ministries

PRINCIPAL CONSECRATOR

Most Reverend Peter A Comensoli,
Archbishop of Melbourne

CO-CONSECRATORS

Most Reverend Anthony Ireland,
Archbishop of Hobart

Most Reverend Paul Bird CSsR,
Bishop Emeritus of Ballarat

APOSTOLIC NUNCIO

Most Reverend Charles D Balvo

CONCELEBRANTS

Archbishops and Bishops of Australia
Fr Marcello Colasante VG and
Priests of the Diocese of Ballarat
Priests of the Archdiocese of Hobart
Other Visiting Priests

DEACON

Rev Paul Crowe, Adelaide Cathedral Parish

PRIESTS ASSISTING BISHOP-ELECT

Rev Michael Delaney
Rev Kasun Dananjaya

MASTERS OF CEREMONIES

Rev Jaycee Napoles, Archdiocese of Melbourne
Rev Gary Jones, Diocese of Ballarat
Rev Gregory Tait, Diocese of Ballarat

SERVERS

Channa Thilakarathna & Simon Zakari,
Seminarians for the Diocese of Ballarat
Akalanka Randeniya,
Seminararian for the Archdiocese of Hobart
Johnny Greenfield,
Emmaus Catholic Primary School, Mt Clear

SACRISTAN

Dr Peter Morris, Ballarat Cathedral Parish

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Dr Deanne Gilson, Wadawurrung Woman

WORDS OF WELCOME AND PRESENTATION OF WELCOME TO THE DIOCESE

Ms Maria Noonan, Ballarat Cathedral Parish

HOLDING THE BOOK OF THE GOSPELS

Mrs Mary-Kathleen Kennedy, Northeast Mallee Parish
Mrs Anna Schlooz, South West Coast & Creswick Parishes

PRESENTATION OF INSIGNIA

Mitre – Most Rev Michael Morrissey,
Bishop of Geraldton
Ring – Mrs Jenny Mansfield, Sister of Bishop-Elect
Crosier – Most Rev Paul Bird CSSR

READERS

Sr Veronica Lawson RSM, Ballarat East Parish
Mr John Hockey, Western Border Parish

PROCESSION OF GIFTS

Mr John & Mrs Margaret Millington,
Western Border Parish

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Mr Roger Hillman, Ballarat Cathedral Parish

MUSICIANS

Organist: Mr Geoff Martin, Ballarat East Parish
Flautist: Mr Adrian Newman, Ballarat East Parish

CHOIR

Singers from Ballarat parishes and students from
Damascus College Mt Clear &
Loreto College Ballarat

CANTORS

Miss Mariana Vadysinghe, Ballarat Cathedral Parish
Mr Mitchell Leviston, Ballarat Cathedral Parish
Mr Joe Ewing, South West Coast Parish

WELCOMERS & USHERS

From Ballarat parishes,
DOBCEL Catholic Identity & Mission Team
and Diocesan Office staff.

CATHEDRAL DECOR

Deneise Walsh and members of the
Ballarat Cathedral Parish

Acknowledgement of Country



The Catholic Diocese of Ballarat acknowledges the nations of the Aboriginal People who are the Traditional Custodians of the lands over which our diocese is spread. We acknowledge their rich culture and pay respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We acknowledge the deep spiritual connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

To maintain a spirit of reverence and solemnity, we request that you turn off all mobile phones and other electronic devices.

Please be advised this Mass is being photographed and livestreamed.

WELCOME TO COUNTRY

Dr Deanne Gilson, Wadawurrung Woman

OPENING WORDS

Maria Noonan

Introductory Rites



Please stand

ENTRANCE HYMN

Hymn of Cosmic Praise

- Refrain:* Sing a new song, sing a new song,
and wait upon the promise of the Lord.
1. Creation sings a new song, to the Lord;
the universal energies rejoice;
through all the magnitudes
of space and time creatures proclaim
the grandeur of Christ. *R.*
 2. The mountains and the valleys and the
plains, the cattle and the wild beasts
and the birds, the shadows and
the clouds, the rain and snow,
praise and reflect the bounty of Christ. *R.*
 3. The ocean deeps, the currents and
the tides, the diatoms, the fishes,
and the whale, the storm, the reef,
the waterspout, the calm,
praise and reflect the wonder of Christ. *R.*

4. The fruit trees in their seasons and the vine, the eucalypt, the cedar, and the palm, the lotus and the orchid and the rose, praise and reflect the beauty of Christ. *R.*
5. The eye of man, the shaping hand, the mind, with number and with symbol and design, in work and play and artistry and prayer, praise and reflect the wisdom of Christ. *R.*

SIGN OF THE CROSS

All make the Sign of the Cross as the Archbishop says:

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

All: Amen.

GREETING

Archbishop: Peace be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Archbishop: My brothers and sisters,
let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare ourselves to celebrate
the sacred mysteries.

Archbishop: Have mercy on us, O Lord.

All: For we have sinned against you.

Archbishop: Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

All: And grant us your salvation.

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

All: Amen.

LORD HAVE MERCY

Sung - Mass of St Francis

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of three staves. The first staff is for the Cantor, with the lyrics 'Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.' The second staff is for the All, with the lyrics 'Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy.' The third staff is for the Cantor, with the lyrics 'Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.' The score includes dynamic markings such as *All* and *rall.* and uses various note values including quarter, eighth, and half notes, as well as rests.

GLORY TO GOD

Sung - Mass of St Francis

Glo - ry to God in the high - est and on earth peace to peo - ple of good -
will. We praise you, we bless you, we a - dore you, we
glo - ri - fy you, we give you thanks for your great glo - ry. Lord God
hea - ven - ly King, O God al - migh - ty Fa - ther. Lord Je - sus Christ,
On - ly Be - got - ten Son. Lord God, Lamb of God Son of the Fa - ther.
You take a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us.
You take a - way the sins of the world, re - ceive our prayer. You are seat - ed
at the right hand of the Fa - ther, have mer - cy on us. For
you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone
are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men, A - men.

Desc.

COLLECT

Archbishop: Grant, we pray, almighty God,
that by Saint Joseph's intercession
your Church may constantly watch over
the unfolding of the mysteries of human
salvation, whose beginnings you
entrusted to his faithful care.
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.

Please be seated

Liturgy of the Word



FIRST READING *Isaiah 61:1-3*

read by Sr Veronica Lawson rsm

Sr Veronica: A reading from the prophet Isaiah.
The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the
poor, to bind up hearts that are broken;
to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord,
a day of vengeance for our God,
to comfort all those who mourn
and to give them for ashes a garland;

for mourning robe the oil of gladness,
for despondency, praise.
They are to be called
'terebinths of integrity',
planted by the Lord to glorify him.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

sung by Mariana Vadysinghe

Psalm 89 – All the Goodness of the Lord

Response: All the goodness of the Lord I will sing for - ev - er, I will
praise God's Ho - ly Name all my days. 1. days.

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:14-15. 17. 23-24

read by John Hockey

John: A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Colossians.

Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love.

And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body.

Always be thankful and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Whatever your work is, put your heart into it as if it were for the Lord and not for men, knowing that the Lord will repay you by making you his heirs. It is Christ the Lord that you are serving.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Sung

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

GOSPEL

John 21:15-19

read by Deacon Paul Crowe

Deacon: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Deacon: After the meal Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?" He answered, "Yes Lord, you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."

A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He replied, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "Look after my sheep."

Then he said to him a third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was upset that he asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" and said, "Lord, you know everything; you know I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

"I tell you most solemnly, when you were young you put on your own belt and walked where you liked; but when you grow old you will stretch out your hands, and somebody else will put a belt round you and take you where you would rather not go."

In these words he indicated the kind of death by which Peter would give glory to God. After this he said, "Follow me."

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Amen.

The Liturgy of Ordination



Please remain standing for the blessing with the Word of God and for the Hymn to the Holy Spirit, in which all present invoke God's spirit for the ordination that is to follow.

The Ordination Rite commences with the prayer 'Veni Creator Spiritus' sung by Mitchell Leviston.

*Veni, Creator Spiritus
mentes tuorum visita,
imple superna gratia,
quae tu creasti pectora.*

*Qui diceris Paraclitus,
altissimi donum Dei,
fons vivus, ignis,
caritas et spiritalis unctio.*

*Tu septiformis munere,
digitus paternae dexteræ
tu rite promissum Patris
sermone ditans guttura.*

Come, Holy Spirit,
Creator blest,
and in our souls take up
Thy rest;
come with Thy grace and
heavenly aid
to fill the hearts which Thou
hast made.

O comforter, to Thee we cry,
O heavenly gift of
God Most High,
O fount of life and fire
of love,
and sweet anointing
from above.

Thou in Thy sevenfold gifts
are known;
Thou, finger of God's hand
we own;
Thou, promise of the Father,
Thou
Who dost the tongue with
power imbue.

*Accende lumen sensibus,
infunde amorem cordibus,
infirma nostri corporis,
virtute firmans perpeti.*

*Hostem repellas longius
pacemque dones protinus;
ductore sic te praevio
vitemus omne noxium.*

*Per te sciamus da Patrem
noscamus atque Filium,
teque utriusque Spiritum
credamus omni tempore.*

*Deo Patri sit gloria,
et Filio qui a mortuis
Surrexit, ac Paraclito,
in saeculorum saecula.
Amen.*

Kindle our sense
from above,
and make our hearts
o'erflow with love;
with patience firm and
virtue high
the weakness of our flesh
supply.

Far from us drive the foe
we dread,
and grant us Thy
peace instead;
so shall we not,
with Thee for guide,
turn from the path of
life aside.

Oh, may Thy grace on
us bestow
the Father and the Son
to know;
and Thee, through
endless times confessed,
of both the eternal
Spirit blest.

Now to the Father
and the Son,
Who rose from death,
be glory given,
with Thou,
O Holy Comforter,
henceforth by all in earth
and heaven.
Amen.

Please be seated

PRESENTATION OF THE BISHOP-ELECT

The Bishop-Elect is led by his assisting priests to the Principal Consecrator, Archbishop Peter Comensoli.

The Vicar General, Fr Marcello Colasante, addresses the Archbishop:

Fr Marcello: Most Reverend Father,
the Church of Ballarat
asks you to ordain this priest,
Mark William Freeman
to the responsibility of the Episcopate.

Archbishop: Have you a mandate from the Holy See?

Fr Marcello: We have.

Archbishop: Let it be read.

READING AND RECOGNITION OF THE APOSTOLIC LETTER OF APPOINTMENT

The Apostolic Letter of Appointment is read by Archbishop Charles Balvo, Apostolic Nuncio.

CONSENT OF THE PEOPLE

Archbishop Balvo raises the Mandate and says:

Archbishop: The Apostolic Mandate.

All: Thanks be to God.

VIEWING OF THE MANDATE

The Mandate is shown to the Consultors of the Diocese and to the Assembly.

HOMILY

Archbishop Peter Comensoli

PROMISE OF THE ELECT

In this examination, the Bishop-Elect publicly expresses his acceptance of his office.

Archbishop: The ancient rule of the holy Fathers ordains that a Bishop-elect is to be questioned in the presence of the people on his resolve to uphold the faith and to discharge his duty. And so, dear brother, do you resolve by the grace of the Holy Spirit to discharge until death the office entrusted to us by the Apostles, which we are about to pass on to you by the laying on of our hands?

Bishop-Elect: I do.

Archbishop: Do you resolve to preach the Gospel of Christ with constancy and fidelity?

Bishop-Elect: I do.

Archbishop: Do you resolve to guard the deposit of faith, entire and incorrupt, as handed down by the Apostles, and preserved in the Church everywhere and at all times?

Bishop-Elect: I do.

Archbishop: Do you resolve to build up the Body of Christ, his Church, and to remain in the unity of that Body, together with the Order of Bishops, under the authority of the successor of Saint Peter the Apostle?

Bishop-Elect: I do.

Archbishop: Do you resolve to render obedience faithfully to the successor of the blessed Apostle Peter?

Bishop-Elect: I do.

Archbishop: Do you resolve to guide the holy People of God in the way of salvation as a devoted father, and sustain them with the help of your fellow ministers, the Priests and Deacons?

Bishop-Elect: I do.

Archbishop: Do you resolve, for the sake of the Lord's name, to be welcoming and merciful to the poor, to strangers, and to all who are in need?

Bishop-Elect: I do.

Archbishop: Do you resolve as a good shepherd to seek out the sheep who stray and gather them into the Lord's fold?

Bishop-Elect: I do.

Archbishop: Do you resolve to pray without ceasing to almighty God for the holy people and to carry out the office of High Priest without reproach?

Bishop-Elect: I do, with the help of God.

Archbishop: May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfilment.

LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

Archbishop: Dearly beloved, let us pray that the kindness of almighty God, in providing for the welfare of the Church, will grant an abundance of his grace for this chosen one.

Deacon: Let us kneel.

Please kneel or sit

*The Bishop-Elect prostrates himself
while the Litany is sung by Joe Ewing.*

Cantor:

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Mary and Joseph,
Michael and all angels,
Anne, Joachim, Elizabeth,
Elijah, Moses, John the Baptist,
Isaac, Sarah, Abraham,
Jacob, Joseph, Samuel,
Ruth, David, and Solomon,
Isaiah, Jeremiah,

Peter, Paul, Andrew,
James, John, and all apostles,
Mary Magdalen, Veronica,
Barnabus, Mathias,
Stephen, Philip, and Cornelius,
Prisca and Aquila,
Timothy and Titus,
Linus, Cletus and Clement,

Lawrence and Chrysogonus,
Innocent and Boniface,
Hippolytus and Origen,
Athanasius and Basil,
Felicity, Perpetua,
Cosmas and Damian,
John Chrysostom and Justin,

All:

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

pray for us.
All you holy men and
women, pray for us.

pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
All you holy men and
women, pray for us.

pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.

Mary MacKillop and Patrick

Jerome and Eusebius,
Scholastica and Benedict,
Ambrose, Monica, Augustine,
Martin and Gregory,
Clare, Francis, and Dominic,
Francis Xavier, Ignatius,
Elizabeth and Catherine,
Louis and Wenceslaus,

Lord, be merciful.
From all evil.
From every sin.
From everlasting death.
By your incarnation.
By your death and resurrection.
By your gift of the Spirit.
Have mercy on us sinners.

Lord, give new life.
To this chosen man.
By the grace of baptism.
O Jesus, son of the living God.
Send your Spirit.
In its fullness.
On your son.
Who believes and professes you.
Christ, hear us.
Lord, Jesus, hear our prayer.

**pray for us.
All you holy men and
women, pray for us.**

**pray for us.
pray for us.
All you holy men and
women, pray for us.**

**Save your people.
Save your people.
Christ hear us.
Lord, Jesus,
Hear our prayer.**

**Hear our prayer.
Hear our prayer.
Christ, hear us.
Lord, Jesus,
hear our prayer.**

Archbishop: Graciously hear our petitions, O Lord,
and pour out upon this, your servant,
the power of your blessing, flowing
from the horn of priestly grace.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

Please stand

*The Archbishop lays his hands upon the head of the
Bishop-Elect in silence, followed by the
Co-consecrators and all other bishops present.*

BOOK OF THE GOSPELS

*The open Book of the Gospels is held
above the head of the Bishop-Elect
by Mary-Kathleen Kennedy and Anna Schlooz,
while the Archbishop prays the Prayer of Ordination.*

PRAYER OF ORDINATION

Archbishop: God and Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ, Father of mercies and God of all
consolation, who dwells on high and
looks upon the lowly, who knows all things
before they come to be, and who laid
down observances in your Church through
the word of your grace; who from the
beginning, foreordained a nation of the
just, born of Abraham; who established
rulers and priests and did not leave your
sanctuary without ministers, and who, from
the foundation of the world, were pleased
to be glorified in those you have chosen.

All the ordaining Bishops, with hands joined, say:

Pour out now upon this chosen one that power which is from you, the governing Spirit, whom you gave to your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, the Spirit whom he bestowed upon the holy Apostles, who established the Church in each place as your sanctuary for the glory and unceasing praise of your name.

The Archbishop alone continues:

Grant, O Father, knower of all hearts, that this your servant, whom you have chosen for the office of Bishop, may shepherd your holy flock. Serving you night and day, may he fulfil before you without reproach the ministry of the High Priesthood, so that, always gaining your favour, he may offer up the gifts of your Holy Church. Grant that, by the power of the Spirit of the High Priesthood, he may have the power to forgive sins according to your command, assign offices according to your decree, and loose every bond according to the power given by you to the Apostles. May he please you by his meekness and purity of heart, presenting a fragrant offering to you through your Son Jesus Christ, through whom glory and power and honour are yours with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, now and for ever and ever.

All:

Amen.

Please sit

ANOINTING OF THE HEAD

Archbishop Comensoli anoints the head of Bishop Freeman with the oil of Chrism – a sign that he now shares most fully in the leading, teaching and sanctifying offices of Christ.

Archbishop: May God, who has made you a sharer of the High Priesthood of Christ, himself pour out upon you the oil of mystical anointing and make you fruitful with an abundance of spiritual blessing.

HANDING ON OF THE BOOK OF THE GOSPELS

Archbishop Comensoli presents the Book of Gospels to the newly ordained Bishop saying:

Archbishop: Receive the Gospel and preach the word of God with all patience and sound teaching.

THE INSIGNIA

The Bishop's ring is presented by Jenny Mansfield as Archbishop Comensoli says:

Archbishop: Receive this ring, the seal of fidelity: adorned with undefiled faith, preserve unblemished the bride of God, the holy Church.

The Bishop's mitre is presented by Bishop Michael Morrissey, as Archbishop Comensoli says:

Archbishop: Receive the mitre, and may the splendour of holiness shine forth in you, so that when the chief shepherd appears you may deserve to receive from him an unfading crown of glory.

*The Bishop's crosier is presented by Bishop Bird as
Archbishop Comensoli says:*

Archbishop: Receive the crosier, the sign of your pastoral office: and keep watch over the whole flock in which the Holy Spirit has placed you as Bishop to govern the Church of God.

SEATING OF THE BISHOP

*Bishop Freeman is led to the cathedra by
Archbishop Comensoli and Archbishop Balvo.*

KISS OF PEACE

*Bishop Freeman receives a fraternal kiss of peace from
Archbishop Comensoli and all other Bishops present.*

My Peace be Upon You

Refrain: My peace be upon you forever,
my love be within your heart,
my Spirit will keep you safe all your days.

1. I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord;
through all ages my mouth will
proclaim your truth.
Of this I am sure, that your love lasts
for ever, that your truth is firmly
established as the heavens. *R.*
2. With my chosen one
I have made a covenant;
I have sworn to David my servant:
I will establish your dynasty for ever
and set up your throne through all ages. *R.*

3. The heavens proclaim your wonders,
O Lord; the assembly of your
holy ones proclaims your truth.
For who in the skies
can compare with the Lord
or who is like the Lord among
the sons of God? *R.*
4. For yours is a mighty arm, O Lord;
your hand is strong, your right hand ready.
Justice and right are the pillars of your
throne, love and truth shall walk
in your presence. *R.*
5. O happy the people who acclaim
such a king, who walk, O Lord,
in the light of your face,
who find their joy ev'ry day
in your name,
who make your justice the
source of their bliss. *R.*

*Bishop Freeman now becomes the Principal Celebrant
of this Eucharistic celebration.*

Please be seated

WELCOME TO THE DIOCESE

Presented by Maria Noonan

*Bishop Freeman is welcomed to the Diocese by
representatives of the Clergy, Religious, Diocesan
Ministries and Catholic Schools. Ecumenical and Civic
Representatives are also presented to the Bishop.*

The Liturgy of the Eucharist



PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS

*The gifts are brought forward by
John & Margaret Millington*

In Faith and Hope and Love

Refrain: In faith and hope and love
with joyful trust we move towards
our Father's home above.

1. Christ, our star, our map, our road
to the Father's high abode. *R.*
2. Christ, our bread along the way;
Christ, our rescue when we stray. *R.*
3. Christ, our shelter, Christ our friend,
our beginning and our end. *R.*
4. Christ, our hope and our reward;
our redeemer and our Lord. *R.*

Bishop: Pray, brothers and sisters,
that my sacrifice and yours may be
acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

Please stand

All: May the Lord accept the sacrifice
at your hands for the praise and
glory of his name, for our good
and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Bishop: We pray, O Lord, that, just as Saint Joseph served with loving care your Only Begotten Son, born of the Virgin Mary, so we may be worthy to minister with a pure heart at your altar.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER III

Preface of St Joseph

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Bishop: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

Bishop: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right and just.

Bishop: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God and on the Solemnity of Saint Joseph to give you fitting praise, to glorify you and bless you.

For this just man was given by you as spouse to the Virgin Mother of God and set as a wise and faithful servant in charge of your household, to watch like a father over your Only Begotten Son, who was conceived by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through him the Angels praise your majesty, Dominions adore and Powers tremble before you. Heaven and the Virtues of heaven and the blessed Seraphim worship together with exultation.

May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in humble praise, as we acclaim:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Sung - Mass of St Francis

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of hosts. Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est.

The musical score is written on three staves in G major and 4/4 time. The lyrics are placed below the notes. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it. A descending slur is marked 'Desc.' above it.

Please kneel or sit

Bishop:

You are indeed Holy, O Lord, and all you have created rightly gives you praise, for through your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, by the power and working of the Holy Spirit, you give life to all things and make them holy, and you never cease to gather a people to yourself, so that from the rising of the sun to its setting a pure sacrifice may be offered to your name.

The concelebrants, with hands extended toward the offering, say together:

Therefore, O Lord, we humbly implore you: by the same Spirit graciously make holy these gifts we have brought to you for consecration, that they may become the Body and ✠ Blood of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ, at whose command we celebrate these mysteries.

For on the night he was betrayed he himself took bread, and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY,
WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice, and, giving you thanks, he said the blessing and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying:

TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,
FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,
THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL
COVENANT, WHICH WILL BE Poured OUT
FOR YOU AND FOR MANY
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS.
DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION 2 *Sung - Mass of St Francis*

Bishop: The mystery of faith

The my - ste-ry of faith When we eat this Bread and drink this...
Cup, we pro - claim your Death O Lord, un - til you come a - gain.

Then the concelebrants, with hands extended, say:

- CC Therefore, O Lord, as we celebrate the memorial of the saving Passion of your Son, his wondrous Resurrection and Ascension into heaven, and as we look forward to his second coming, we offer you in thanksgiving this holy and living sacrifice.
- Look, we pray, upon the oblation of your Church and, recognising the sacrificial Victim by whose death you willed to reconcile us to yourself, grant that we, who are nourished by the Body and Blood of your Son and filled with his Holy Spirit, may become one body, one spirit in Christ.
- CI May he make of us an eternal offering to you, so that we may obtain an inheritance with your elect, especially with the most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, her Spouse, with your blessed Apostles and glorious Martyrs and with all the Saints, on whose constant intercession in your presence we rely for unfailing help.
- CII May this Sacrifice of our reconciliation, we pray, O Lord, advance the peace and salvation of all the world.
- Be pleased to confirm in faith and charity your pilgrim Church on earth, with your servant Leo our Pope and Mark, who has been ordained today as shepherd for the Church of Ballarat, with the Order of Bishops, all the clergy, and the entire people you have gained for your own.

Listen graciously to the prayers of this family, whom you have summoned before you: in your compassion, O merciful Father, gather to yourself all your children scattered throughout the world.

CIII

To our departed brothers and sisters and to all who were pleasing to you at their passing from this life, give kind admittance to your kingdom. There we hope to enjoy for ever the fullness of your glory through Christ our Lord, through whom you bestow on the world all that is good.

DOXOLOGY AND GREAT AMEN *Sung - Mass of St Francis*

All concelebrants sing:

Bishops: Through him, and with him, and in him,
O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honour is yours,
for ever and ever.

All sing:

Through Him..... A - men, A - men, A - men.

The Communion Rite



Please stand

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Bishop: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

**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.**

Bishop: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours now and forever.**

RITE OF PEACE

Bishop: Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:

Peace I leave you, my peace I give you;
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and
unity in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

Bishop: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: **And with your spirit.**

Deacon: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

Sung - Mass of St Francis



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world. Have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world. Have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world. Grant us peace

Please kneel or sit

Bishop: Behold the Lamb of God,
 behold him who takes away
 the sins of the world.
 Blessed are those called to the
 supper of the Lamb.

All: **Lord, I am not worthy
 that you should enter under my roof,
 but only say the word
 and my soul shall be healed.**

RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

Please be seated

COMMUNION HYMNS

Taste and See God's Love For Us

Refrain: Taste and see God's love for us,
taste and see God's love for us,
taste and see God's love for us,
taste and see God's love.

1. I am the bread for all your hungers.
Come to me.
Come to me and drink deeply, freely,
taste and see my love. *R.*
2. I am the hope for all your longings.
Come to me.
Come to me and trust firmly, strongly,
taste and see my love. *R.*
3. I am the light in all your darkness.
Come to me.
Come to me and find comfort, blessing,
taste and see my love. *R.*
4. I am the heart of all your giving.
Come to me.
Come to me and draw strength and joy,
taste and see my love. *R.*

Gift of Finest Wheat

Refrain: You satisfy the hungry heart
with gift of finest wheat;
Come give to us, O Saving Lord,
the Bread of Life to eat.

1. As when the shepherd calls his sheep,
they know and heed his voice;
so when you call your family Lord,
we follow and rejoice. *R.*
2. With joyful lips, we sing to you,
our praise and gratitude,
that you should count us worthy Lord,
to share this heav'nly food. *R.*
3. Is not the cup we bless and share
the blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf declare
our oneness in the Lord? *R.*
4. The myst'ry of your presence Lord,
no mortal tongue can tell:
Whom all the world cannot contain
comes in our hearts to dwell. *R.*
5. You give yourself to us, O Lord;
then selfless let us be,
to serve each other in your name
in truth and charity. *R.*

Bread of Life, Hope for the World

Refrain: Bread of life, hope of the world,
Jesus Christ, our brother:
feed us now, give us life,
lead us to one another.

1. As we proclaim your death,
as we recall your life,
we remember your promise
to return again. *R.*

2. This bread we break and share
was scattered once as grain:
just as now it is gathered,
make your people one. *R.*
3. We eat this living bread,
we drink this saving cup:
sign of hope in our broken world,
source of lasting love. *R.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Please stand

Bishop: Defend with unfailing protection,
O Lord, we pray, the family you
have nourished with food from
this altar, as they rejoice at the
Solemnity of Saint Joseph,
and graciously keep safe
your gifts among them.
Through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Please remain standing

BLESSING OF THE ASSEMBLY

*Bishop Freeman is led through the assembly by
Archbishop Ireland and Bishop Bird.*

The Magnificat

1. My soul proclaims the
greatness of the Lord.
My spirit sings to God, my saving God,
who on this day above all others
favoured me and raised me up,
a light for all to see.

2. Through me great deeds will God
make manifest and all the earth
will come to call me blest.
Unbounded love and mercy sure
will I proclaim for all who know
and praise God's holy name.
3. God's mighty arm, protector of the just
will guard the weak and raise them
from the dust.
But mighty Kings will swiftly
fall from thrones corrupt.
The strong brought low,
the lowly lifted up.
4. Soon will the poor and hungry of the earth
be richly blest, be given greater worth.
And Israel, as once foretold to Abraham
will live in peace throughout the
promised land.
5. All glory be to God, Creator blest,
to Jesus Christ, God's love made manifest,
and to the Holy Spirit, gentle Comforter,
all glory be, both now and ever more.

Please be seated

ADDRESS

**Most Reverend Mark Freeman
Ninth Bishop of Ballarat**

Concluding Rites



SOLEMN BLESSING

Please stand

Bishop: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Deacon: Bow down for the blessing.

Bishop: O God, who care for your people with gentleness and rule them in love, endow with the Spirit of wisdom those to whom you have handed on the authority to govern, that from the flourishing of a holy flock may come eternal joy for its shepherds.

All: Amen.

Bishop: As in your majestic power you allot the number of our days and the measure of our years, look favourably upon our humble service and confer on our time the abundance of your peace.

All: Amen.

Bishop: Give happy outcome to the tasks that through your grace you have laid upon me, whom you have raised to the rank of Bishop; make me pleasing to you in fulfilment of my duties, and so guide the hearts of people and pastor, that the obedience of the flock may never fail the shepherd nor the care of the shepherd be lacking for the flock.

All: Amen.

Bishop: And may almighty God bless all of you,
who are gathered here,
the Father, ✠ and the Son, ✠
and the Holy ✠ Spirit.

All: Amen.

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.

All: Thanks be to God.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

O God Beyond All Praising

1. O God beyond all praising,
we worship you today
and sing the love amazing
that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder
at ev'ry gift you send,
at blessings without number
and mercies without end;
we lift our hearts before you
and wait upon your word,
we honour and adore you,
our great and mighty Lord.

2. The flower of earthly splendor
in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender
to you, the Lord most high;
but hidden from all nature,
the eternal seed is sown,
though small in mortal stature,
to heaven's garden grown;
for Christ the man from heaven,
from death has set us free,
and through him we are given
the final victory!

3. Then hear, O gracious Saviour,
accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favour
may serve you as our king;
and whether our tomorrows
be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows
and rise to bless you still;
to marvel at your beauty
and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty
our sacrifice of praise.

Thank You



Bishop Mark, Bishop Paul and the organising group acknowledges and thanks the many people and groups who have contributed to the preparation and celebration of this joyous occasion.

The generous gifts of your talents, time and energy to the many ministries and tasks of this occasion have made it a memorable event for both the Bishop and the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat.

**Following Mass
you are invited
to join
Bishop Mark
in St Patrick's
Cathedral Hall
for a light lunch**

Catholic Diocese of Ballarat



The Diocese of Ballarat was established on March 30, 1874.

The Diocese is a diverse and geographically extensive community of twenty three parishes which covers the western half of Victoria, extending from the Murray River in the North to the Southern Ocean. To the west it is bounded by the Archdiocese of Adelaide and the Diocese of Port Pirie, to the north by the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes and to the east by the Diocese of Sandhurst and the Archdiocese of Melbourne.

The Diocese has 11 Catholic Secondary Colleges and 52 Catholic Primary Schools, who together with Diocese of Ballarat Catholic Education Limited (DOBCCEL) educate 18,600 students.

CatholicCare Victoria is the main social welfare organisation of the Diocese. Based in Ballarat, it also has offices in Daylesford, Hamilton, Horsham, Mildura, Swan Hill and Warrnambool. Its services include assistance with employment and housing, disability services, counselling and family services, mental health services, victims assistance programs, homelessness support and community and advocacy support.

Diocesan Vision Statement



*We are a community of communities
from the Murray to the sea.
Inspired by the Gospel and
nourished by the Eucharist,
we follow the example of Jesus and
the guidance of the Holy Spirit,
reaching out in joyful and humble service,
caring for all of God's creation,
growing in love day by day and
looking forward to life with God forever.*

www.ballarat.catholic.org.au

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**St Patrick's Cathedral,
Ballarat**



**ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL
BALLARAT**

March 19, 2026