

RITE OF ELECTION

THURSDAY

25TH FEBRUARY 2021

@ 7.30 PM

St Mary's Cathedral
PERTH



*Do not be afraid,
for I have redeemed
you;
I have called you by
your name,
you are mine.*

[Isaiah 43:1]

RCIA Parish Teams
*please register their arrival at the Cathedral and collect the
catechumen and candidates' nametags.*

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IMPORTANT

- **Email** the Names of the Catechumens and Candidates to be presented at the Rite of Election to christian.initiation@perthcatholic.org.au by **9th February 2021.**

Please clearly indicate if the person is a catechumen or candidate.

- Reserved seating for catechumens, candidates, sponsors and RCIA Parish team **ONLY.** (see note for seating on page 18). RSVP the number of seats required for your parish to christian.initiation@perthcatholic.org.au by **15th February 2021.**

Covid 19 restrictions are still a reality in our community and we must not become complacent about best practice. Government regulations instruct us to continue to take all appropriate measures and precautions to ensure the safety of the community from contracting Covid 19.

As we do not know if the restrictions will be lifted by the Rite of Election, I am planning according to the current regulations. This means that we ensure we maintain the appropriate distance between each person and therefore, there will be a limit to those who can attend the Rite of Election.

At this point those who are invited to attend The Rite of Election will be the catechumens and candidates with their sponsor, the Coordinator and members of the RCIA team, the parish priest and a limit of **two** family members.

Also, because of the Covid restrictions we are unable to offer light refreshments after the ceremony.

I will continue to monitor government instructions and if updates occur that will allow additional guests, I will inform you.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

DR CARMEL SUART
Director



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INVITATION TO ALL PARISH CHOIRS

Rite of Election Community Choir

25th February 2021

Parish Choirs and all who love to sing are warmly invited to join the Rite of Election community choir to welcome those on the pathway to being received into the Catholic Church at Easter. The community choir will be conducted by the Director of Cathedral Music, Jacinta Jakovcevic.

Due to Covid restrictions there is room for only **40** choir members, so those who register first will have priority.

Please BYO Catholic Worship Book II. For those who do not have books in your parish, copies will be made available on loan from the Cathedral for rehearsals and the Rite of Election.

The following rehearsal times have been scheduled.

Rehearsal Date	Location	Time	Parking Details
Thursday 11 th February	St Mary's Cathedral Downstairs in Parish Centre	7.00 – 8.30 pm	Parking available in the downstairs Cathedral carpark ONLY . Upper carpark is closed.
Tuesday 23 rd February	St Mary's Cathedral Blessed Sacrament Chapel	7.00 – 8.30 pm	Parking available in the downstairs Cathedral carpark ONLY . Upper carpark is closed.
Thursday 25 th February Rite of Election	St Mary's Cathedral Blessed Sacrament Chapel	Warm Up 6.45 – 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm start	Both carparks will be open. Parking available both the Cathedral upper and lower carpark.

IMPORTANT - REHEARSAL PARKING

The Cathedral grounds will be LOCKED during the rehearsals. Enter carpark via lower carpark. Ushers will open lower car-park gate at Goderich St and RPH Ambulance Entrance. Please note that the upper carpark will be closed.

REGISTRATION

Please email the following information to christian.initiation@perthcatholic.org.au by 2nd February 2021.

Name of contact person

Name of Parish

Email Address

Number of people from the parish wishing to join the choir

The Rite of Reception of Names and the Rite of Sending from the Parish

The Rite of Reception of Names and the Rite of Sending from the Parish is an optional rite. It is a parish companion to the Rite of Election in dioceses where the Rite of Election is held as a Cathedral celebration.

The aim is for the Parish community (particularly catechists, sponsors, and others who have travelled closely with the catechumens and candidates) to give witness to the catechumens and candidates readiness to be called to the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil. As a result of this witness, the catechumens and candidates are invited to sign the scrolls which will be presented to the Archbishop or his delegate at the Rite of Election of Catechumens and Formal Recognition of Candidates at the Cathedral. Their names will then be inscribed in the Archdiocesan Book of the Elect or Book of Recognition.

Attention should be given to making the Rite of Reception of Names and the Rite of Sending from the Parish as warm and personal as possible.

**For further clarification on the celebration of the Rite refer to
The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults 105 – 115**

**Rite of Reception of Names
*Parish Companion to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults***

OUTLINE OF THE RITE OF RECEPTION OF NAMES AND PARISH SENDING TO THE CATHEDRAL

Celebrated within your Parish Sunday Mass prior to the Rite of Election

- Homily
- Presentation of Catechumens and Candidates
- Signing of Scroll (**blue**) by Catechumens –non baptized
- Signing of Scroll (**red**) by Candidates –Baptised in other Christian denominations
- Prayer over Catechumens and Candidates
- Recitation of the Creed
- Universal Prayer
- Dismissal or Invitation to remain

PROFORMA

PARISH RECEPTION OF NAMES

(Option B – Parish Companion to Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

HOMILY

PARISH RECEPTION OF NAMES

Celebrant We have heard the Good News of the Lord proclaimed.
Let us now hear how the Word has been coming to life among us.

Presenter Father, we have Catechumens with us today who are now ready to undertake the Lenten journey to Easter when they will come to the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

We also have with us some baptised Christians who ask that they may join with us as we live this Lent, with a view to their being received into the full communion of the Catholic church (or complete their initiation) when we celebrate the Easter feast.

Celebrant Let them come forward with their godparents and sponsors...

Presenter The Catechumens are.....(names). The Candidates are.....(names).

(Catechumens and candidates come forward with their godparents and sponsors as their names are announced.)

Celebrant Do you and their catechists consider they are ready to undertake the Lenten journey to the Easter sacraments?

Presenter I do!

Celebrant Godparents and sponsors, these brothers and sisters of ours are considered to be ready to come with us to Easter. Are you prepared to live this Lent with them in true spirit of faith and repentance?

Godparents and Sponsors We are!

Celebrant My brothers and sisters, once again we welcome you to this assembly. You are considered to be now ready to celebrate the coming Easter with us. Will you use this time of preparation well, and will you follow along the way of coming to live as members of Christ's Body, the Church?

Catechumens and Candidates I will!

Celebrant (to assembly)

Trusting in the word of the sponsors and your own experience of their growth amongst us, are you ready to take the Lenten journey with them and support their spiritual preparation to share the Easter Eucharist with us this Easter?

All We are!

Celebrant My friends, your presence and the example of your faith is a stimulus and challenge to all of us as we respond to the Lord's call to faith.

Celebrant to catechumens only

My dear catechumens, on the 5th March this year, at the Cathedral, the Archbishop, speaking in the name of the Church will formally call you to the Easter sacraments. I ask you to offer your names on the blue scroll, that this may be presented to the Archbishop and inscribed in the Book of the Elect.

[The catechumens (un-baptised) now sign the blue scroll]

Celebrant to candidates only

My dear candidates, since you wish to join us at the Easter table this year, I invite you to pledge yourselves by offering your names on the red scroll that this may be presented to the Archbishop and inscribed in the Book of Recognition at the Cathedral.

[The candidates (baptised) now sign the red scroll]

RECITATION OF THE CREED

Celebrant addresses whole assembly

Let us stand and together recite the Creed.

UNIVERSAL PRAYER

Invitation by Celebrant

Reader For our catechumens, (N. catechumens) and our candidates, (N. candidates), as they prepare to come to the Easter sacraments. May they be strengthened in faith and give themselves totally to Christ. Lord hear us.

Reader For the sponsors, catechists and all who have helped our catechumens, (N.), and our candidates, (N.), on their journey of faith, that they may be rewarded for the example and encouragement they have given. Lord hear us.

Reader For our (N.) Parish community, that this may be a fruitful Lent so that we may be properly prepared for the coming Easter feast. Lord hear us.

[At the end of the petitions, the **Celebrant** lays hands on the head of the catechumens and candidates in silence. **Godparents and sponsors** follow by laying hands on each catechumen and candidate. The celebrant may also invite the assembly to raise their hands towards the catechumens and candidates during the prayer, at his discretion]

Prayer Over Catechumens and Candidates

Celebrant Gracious God, you make all things new in Christ and draw all people to yourself. Look with love on our catechumens, (N.), who thirst for the living waters of baptism and on our candidates, (N.) who hunger for the Eucharist. Guide them in the days ahead.

Guide us too, as we travel together our Lenten journey to Easter, to commit ourselves to the pattern of dying and rising in our lives. So that we may proclaim you as Lord forever and ever.

All Amen.

INVITATION TO CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES

Celebrant Although you cannot yet participate fully in the Lord's Eucharist, stay with us as a sign of our hope that all God's children will eat and drink with the Lord and work with His Spirit to recreate the face of the earth.

All Amen.

[Catechumens and candidates return to their places
with their godparents and sponsors]

OR

DISMISSAL OF CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES

Celebrant Strengthened by God's love and the prayer of this assembly, I invite you to go forth led by your catechist, to reflect upon the road to Easter that you travel with the Lord, and upon His call which has come to you once more in our midst. Go and may the Lord go with you.

All Thanks be to God.

Continue with the LITURGY of the EUCHARIST

THE RITE OF ELECTION

When is the Rite of Election

The Rite of Election of Catechumens and Formal Recognition of Candidates closes the period of the catechumenate and coincides with the beginning of Lent. Over the lengthy catechumen process, time has been given for the gradual deepening of understanding in the hearts and minds of those seeking conversion and desire to join the Catholic faith. The period of Lent, thereby is an intense and final stage, leading to the 'Elect' receiving the Sacraments of Initiation and becoming full members of the Catholic faithful.

[RCIA 105]

Reason for the Rite

The Rite of Election has a dual understanding. The catechumens and candidates will be presented to the Archbishop or his delegate, who represent the Universal Church. In presenting themselves, the catechumens and candidates have elected to affirm their readiness to begin the final path towards being received into the Church.

Election by God

This election includes the divine reality of God's election of the catechumens and candidates to become full members of the Catholic faith at Easter.

Testimony

The Parish RCIA team of catechists, God-parents, and sponsors who have guided and supported the catechumens and candidates through their conversion journey, in accord with their respective responsibilities and in their own way, believe the catechumens and candidates are well prepared to advance towards the Sacraments of Initiation and be fully received as members of the Catholic Church at Easter.

[RCIA 106, 108]

Homily

The Archbishop, in his Homily, has the responsibility of showing the religious and ecclesial significance of the Election. He also asks the catechumens and candidates to give a personal expression of their intention and, in the name of The Church, he carries out the act of admitting them as Elect.

[RCIA 112]

Declaration

The Archbishop declares before all present the Church's decision, and if appropriate asks the community to express its approval of the catechumens and candidates. He should remind the faithful to give good example to the Elect and along with the Elect prepare themselves for the Easter solemnities.

[RCIA 112]

Discernment for Election and Preparation for Full Communion

Before the Rite of Election is celebrated, catechumens and candidates are expected to have undergone conversion of mind and action, and to have developed a sufficient acquaintance with Christian teaching as well as a spirit of faith and charity. With deliberate will and an enlightened faith they must have the intention to receive the sacraments of the Church, a resolve they will express publicly in the actual celebration of the rite.

[RCIA 107]

A Process of Discernment

1. Relationship with Christ

- Has the catechumen/ candidate deepened in their personal relationship with Christ?
- Is the catechumen/candidate growing in understanding of the meaning of discipleship?

2. Familiarity with the Gospels

- Has the catechumen/candidate developed familiarity with Christ's teachings through the sharing of the Gospel readings during the catechumenate period?
- Has he or she been open to receiving the Word of God?
- Does he or she struggle with any demands of The Word?

3. Deepening Prayer and Worship

- In the spirit of faith and charity, has the catechumen and candidate deepened their relationship with Christ through prayer and worship?
- Does he or she seek God in prayer with confidence and trust?
- Has he or she developed a personal relationship with God?
- Is he or she participating in the Parish Liturgies and Masses as far as possible?

4. Increased understanding of belonging to Parish community

- Has the catechumen/candidate found the Parish community a place of welcome and support?
- Does he or she desire to become members and serve the Parish community according to their own charisms and ability?
- Does the catechumen/candidate welcome the insights into the Catholic community, and been instructed on the fundamentals of Christian life?

5. Developing a response to mission

- Is the catechumen/candidate beginning to understand Christ's call to living discipleship in their daily lives?

Rite of Election Order of Service – Liturgy of the Word

Part 1

- ❖ Gathering Hymn
- ❖ Greeting
- ❖ Penitential Act
- ❖ Opening Prayer
- ❖ First Reading [Isaiah 43:1-3]
- ❖ Psalm [sung]
- ❖ Second Reading [Romans 8:28 – 30]
- ❖ Gospel Acclamation [sung]
- ❖ Gospel- 1st Sunday in Lent [Matthew 4: 1-11]
- ❖ Homily

Part 2

- ❖ Presentation of the Catechumens
- ❖ Affirmation by Godparents
- ❖ Invitation and Enrolment of Names
- ❖ Introduction of Catechumens to the Archbishop or/and his delegates
- ❖ Act of Admission and Election

Part 3

- ❖ Formal Recognition and Presentation of Candidates Affirmation by Sponsors
- ❖ Invitation and Acceptance of Names
- ❖ Introduction of Candidates to the Archbishop or/and his delegates
- ❖ Act of Recognition

Part 4

- ❖ Universal Prayer
- ❖ Prayer over The Elect and Candidates
- ❖ Dismissal and Final Blessing
- ❖ Recessional Hymn

LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading [Isaiah 43: 1-3]

But now, thus says the Lord,
Who created you, Jacob,
Who formed you, Israel:
Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by your name, you are mine.
Should you pass through the sea, I will be with you;
Or through rivers, they will not swallow you up.
Should you walk through fire, you will not be scorched and the flames will not burn you.
For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.

Commentary

The Rite of Election for Catechumens and Formal Recognition of Candidates marks an important step in the conversion journey. Although there are many reasons for choosing to become Catholic, the common thread shared is the initial invitation to 'come and see', which always comes from God.

Isaiah reminds us that God has created and formed us. God has personally extended His invitation of love: 'I have called you by your name, you are mine.' This is the catechumen's and candidate's election to the Sacraments of Initiation or Full Communion with the Catholic Church. The response of the catechumens and candidates to this invitation includes discerning their free choice to say yes to Christ's invitation. Although the pilgrim journey may involve many struggles, God is always with us, He is our Saviour.

2nd Reading [Romans 8:28-30]

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love Him, with all those that He has called according to His purpose. They are the ones He chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of His Son, so that His Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those He called He justified, and with those He justified He shared His glory.

Commentary

At the Rite of Election, the Archbishop articulates God's hospitality and invitation to come to the Sacraments of Initiation. St Paul reiterates God's calling, and for 'His purpose', not our own. Often, we justify our choices and reasons for what we do. Paul teaches us that God's intention is for us to freely co-operate with His grace of love and become brothers and sisters of Christ. The familial intimacy of this relationship is clear, we are no longer outsiders, but one with Jesus, sharing in His glory.

Gospel [Matthew 4: 1-11]

Jesus was led by the Spirit out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, after which He was very hungry, and the tempter came and said to Him, 'If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to turn into loaves.' But He replied, 'Scripture says: Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

The devil then took Him to the holy city and made Him stand on the parapet of the Temple. 'If you are the Son of God,' he said, 'throw yourself down; for scripture says: He will put you in his angels' charge, and they will support you on their hands in case you hurt your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, 'Scripture also says: You must not put the Lord your God to the test.' Next, taking Him to a very high mountain, the devil showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. 'I will give you all these', he said, 'if you fall at my feet and worship me.'

Then Jesus replied, 'Be off, Satan! For scripture says: You must worship the Lord your God, and serve him alone.'

Then the devil left Him, and angels appeared and looked after Him.

Commentary

The Year A Gospels have a particular affinity with the process of Christian Initiation. The Gospel of Matthew from the 1st Sunday of Lent reflects the Lenten journey of discernment. Jesus in the wilderness is confronted three times by the devil. The challenges posed by the devil, attack three basic aspects of our human nature: hunger, pride and arrogance.

The discernment process is supported through the Lenten Liturgies and involves profound reflection on: the deepening relationship with Christ; growing in the practice of prayer and worship; an emerging familiarity with Christ's teaching through the Gospels; the sense of belonging to the parish community and wider Catholic Church; an understanding of being called to living Christ's mission.

The loving nature of God is one of freedom. Although God has chosen and called each one of us, we must freely contemplate our readiness for reception into the Catholic faith: for catechumens that is, the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion; for candidates seeking Full Communion with the Catholic Church, the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion.

INFORMATION FOR RCIA COORDINATORS

RSVP OF CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES NAMES

Email the names of the Catechumens and Candidates to be presented at the Rite of Election to christian.initiation@perthcatholic.org.au by **9th February 2021**.

Please clearly indicate if the names belong to catechumens or candidates.

Reserved seating for catechumens, candidates, sponsors and RCIA Parish team **ONLY**. (see note for seating page 18). RSVP the number of seats required for your parish by to christian.initiation@perthcatholic.org.au by **15th February 2021**.

******Please endeavor to return the above information by the due date as it will assist greatly in the preparation requirements for name tags, insertion of names of the catechumens and candidates and collation for the Order of Service. Thankyou.

AT THE CATHEDRAL

- register your parish attendance in the Cathedral foyer.
- collect catechumens and candidates name tags.
- place **blue** scroll and **red** scroll in respective baskets. These will be processed in with the Book of the Elect and Book of Recognition during the Liturgy.

Parishes will be directed to reserved seats by the Ushers. The Parish name on the reserved seating is for the catechumens, candidates, sponsors and RCIA Parish team and parish priests **ONLY**. Other family and friends may be seated nearby, in the unreserved seats.

PRESENTATION OF CATECHUMENS/CANDIDATES

Parishes will **not** be announced by the commentator.

The catechumen or candidate and sponsor will be ushered to the sanctuary in their respective part of the Rite of Election where the Archbishop, or one of his delegates, will greet each catechumens/candidate introduced by their sponsor.

The Sponsor **only** introduces the catechumen/candidate.

The Archbishop or his delegate will speak with the catechumen/ candidate.

The catechumens/candidate and sponsors will be ushered back to their seats to join the assembly in hymn singing.

The catechumens/candidates and sponsor will be asked to **stand in their places** for the **Act of Admission/Recognition**.

SEATING

Reserved seating is for catechumens, candidates, sponsors and RCIA Parish team and parish priests **ONLY**. Families and friends to be seated in unreserved seats area nearby. Please **KEEP TO THE SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENT**.

REVERENCE

The Liturgy reflects a joyful solemnity. It is imperative that when the catechumen, candidates and sponsors return to their seats after meeting the Archbishop or his delegate, that they refrain from chatting amongst themselves. Please encourage them to join the assembly in the singing. This adds to the participation and dignity of the Liturgy.

Please advise family and friends to join with the choir during the presentations of the catechumens and candidates and for them to also refrain from chatting amongst themselves.

COMFORT AND NOISE

Comfortable shoes are recommended for catechumens, candidates, and sponsors due to the amount of movement in this Liturgy. Also, the wearing of heels lends itself to being very noisy on the wooden and stone floors of the Cathedral during the presentations.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

Due to the Covid 19 restrictions there will be **no** light refreshments offered at the end of the ceremony.

Parking Options for the Rite of Election

St Mary's Cathedral

25th February 2021

**Cathedral
Parking Upper and
lower levels.**

**First come
first served.**

No Fee

**Mercedes College
Goderich St.**

**Open
6.30 - 9.30pm**

No Fee

**Murray St
'Fire Station'
Car Park.**

Ticket Parking

**Wilson Parking
Royal Perth
Hospital.**

Ticket Parking

7.00 for 7.30 Start

Street parking may also be available