

*Do not be afraid,   
for I have redeemed you;*

*I have called you   
by your name,   
you are mine*.

[Isaiah 43:1]

Rite of Election

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**THURSDAY**

**22nd February 2024**

**@ 7.30 pm**

**St Mary's Cathedral**

**Perth**

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**INFORMATION SHEET**

**IMPORTANT**

Complete the information Sheet on page 3 and email it to [**christian.initiation@perthcatholic.org.au**](mailto:christian.initiation@perthcatholic.org.au)

**no later than** **5th February 2024.**

* Please clearly indicate if the person is a Catechumen or Candidate.
* Reserved seating for Catechumens, Candidates, Sponsors and RCIA Parish team **ONLY**

**FOR THE RITE OF ELECTION 2024**

Please return this sheet to [christian.initiation@perthcatholic.org.wa](mailto:christian.initiation@perthcatholic.org.wa)

No later than **5th February 2024**

Name of Parish \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Coordinator \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Contact number\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Please type names or print clearly.

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| **Catechumens** | **Candidates** |
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Seating Requirements

Please indicate the numbers of people attending.

* Parish Priest Yes 🞏 No 🞏
* Members of the RCIA Team ­­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Godparent/Sponsors\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Number in Total\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**INFORMATION FOR RCIA COORDINATORS**

**RSVP OF NAMES OF CATECHUMENS AND CANDIDATES**

**Email** the names of the Catechumens and Candidates to be presented at the Rite of Election to [**christian.initiation@perthcatholic.org.au**](mailto:christian.initiation@perthcatholic.org.au) by **5th February 2024.**

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 to [**christian.initiation@perthcatholic.org.au**](mailto:christian.initiation@perthcatholic.org.au) by **5th February 2024.**

\*\*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 the 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 Catechumen/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/Candidates and Sponsors will be ushered back to their seats to join the assembly in hymn singing.

The Catechumens/Candidates and Sponsors 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 can sit in the unreserved seats nearby.

**REVERENCE**

The Liturgy reflects a joyful solemnity. It is imperative that when the catechumen, candidate and sponsors return to their seats after meeting the Archbishop, or his delegate, 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**

After the celebrations, light refreshments will be available in the Parish Hall on the lower carpark level. All are welcome.

**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.

**PARISH RECEPTION OF NAMES**

**Rite of Sending**

*(Catechumens and Candidates)*

**TO TAKE PLACE AFTER THE 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.

Now they ask that they be recognized for the progress they have made.

in their spiritual formation and that they receive the assurance

of our blessing and prayers as they go forth to the Rite of Election.

**Celebrant** Those who are to be sent to the Celebration of Election in Christ, come forward, together with those who will be your Godparents.

**Presenter** The Catechumens are …(names).

(Catechumens come forward with their Godparents as their names are announced.)

**AFFIRMATION BY THE GODPARENTS [AND THE ASSEMBLY]**

**Celebrant** [to the assembly]

My dear friends, these Catechumens,

who have been preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation,

hope that they will be found ready to participate in the Rite of Election

and be chosen in Christ for the Easter sacraments.

It is the responsibility of this community to inquire about their readiness.

before they are presented to the bishop.

[to the Godparents]

I turn to you, Godparents, for your testimony.

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

**Godparents** They have.

**Celebrant** Have they given evidence of their conversion by the example of their lives?

**Godparents** They have.

**Celebrant** Do you judge them to be ready to be presented to the Bishop for the Rite of Election?

**Godparents** We do.

**Celebrant** Godparents, 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 a true spirit of faith and repentance?

**Godparents** We are!

**Celebrant** to **Catechumens** only

My dear Catechumens, on the 22nd February 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]

**PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES**

**Presenter** Father,

We also have Candidates here today who have already been baptised in other Christian Churches. These Candidates, whom I now present to you,

are beginning their final period of preparation for the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist (or: preparation to be received into the full

communion of the Catholic Church). They have found strength in God’s grace and support in our community’s prayers and example.

Now they ask that they be recognised for the progress they have made in their spiritual formation and that they receive the assurance of our blessings and prayers as they go forth for recognition by the Archbishop.

**Celebrant** Those who are to be recognised please, come forward, together with those who will be your Sponsors.

**Presenter** The Candidates are … (names).

(Candidates come forward with their Sponsors as their names are announced.)

**Celebrant [**to the Sponsors]

As God is your witness, do you consider these Candidates ready to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?

**Sponsors** We do.

**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 dear friends, these Candidates,

already one with us by reason of their baptism in Christ,

have asked to complete their initiation (or - to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church)

Those who know them have judged them to be sincere in their desire.

During the period of their catechetical formation, they have listened to the word of Christ and endeavored to follow His commands more perfectly;

they have shared the company of their Christian brothers and sisters in this community and joined with them in prayer.

And so, I announce to all of you here that our community ratifies their desire

to complete their initiation (or: to be received into full communion).

Therefore, I ask their Sponsors to state their opinion once again, so that all of you may hear.

(To the sponsors)

As God is your witness, do you consider these Candidates ready to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist?

**Sponsors** We do.

**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**

**Celebrant** My dear friends, you are about to set out on the road that leads to the glory of Easter. Christ will be your way, your truth, and your life. In His name, we send you forth from this community to celebrate with the Archbishop the Lord’s choice of you to be numbered among his Elect. Until we meet again for the scrutinies, walk always in his peace Catechumens. Amen.

**All** Thanks be to God.

**Continue with the LITURGY of the EUCHARIST**

**CATECHUMENS’ SCROLL**

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**CANDIDATES’ SCROLL**

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**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, Godparents, 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?

1. **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?

1. **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?

1. **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?

1. **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.

**Parking Options for the Rite of Election**

**St Mary’s Cathedral**