

*Archdiocese of Cape Town*



*Centre for Pastoral Development*

# **Celebration of the Rite of Election**



**OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS  
LANSDOWNNE**

**24 FEBRUARY 2023**

# ***RITE OF ELECTION ENROLMENT OF NAMES***

**ENTRANCE HYMN:** Here I am Lord

**INTRODUCTION:**

**GREETING AND OPENING PRAYER:** The Archbishop

Lord, look with love on your servants whom you have called to serve you. They adore you and praise you. Help them to do what is good.

Put in their hearts your own love that they may always remember what you do for them.

Help them to obey your commands and always do what is pleasing to you with their whole heart.

Grant this through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen

## ***LITURGY OF THE WORD***

**FIRST READING:** Genesis 2:7-9; 3:1-7

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM:**

*“My Soul is longing for your Peace near to You my God.”*

**SECOND READING:** Romans 5:12-19

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**“Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”**

Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 4:1-11

**HOMILY:** The Archbishop



# ***PRESENTATION OF THE CATECHUMENS***

## **EPISCOPAL VICAR:**

Reverend Archbishop,  
Easter is drawing near, and so these Catechumens whom I now present to you, are completing their period of preparation. They have found strength in God's grace and support in our community's prayer and example. Now they ask that, after the celebration of the Scrutinies, they be allowed to participate in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist.

**ARCHBISHOP:** Those who are to be chosen in Christ, declare yourselves, together with your Sponsors.

- The name of the Parish will be called
- The RCIA Co-ordinator will come forward and announce the name of his/her parish.
- The name of each Catechumen will then be called.
- The Catechumen will respond by standing and saying, "Present".
- The Co-ordinator will conclude by saying: "These are the Catechumens of ... (Name of Parish).

**ARCHBISHOP:** My dear friends,  
God's Holy Church wishes to know  
whether these Catechumens are  
sufficiently prepared to be enrolled among the Elect for  
the coming celebration of Easter and so I speak first of all  
to you their Sponsors – (Sponsors are invited to stand)  
Have they faithfully listened to God's Word proclaimed by  
the Church?

**SPONSORS:**

They have.



**ARCHBISHOP:**

Have they responded to that Word and begun to  
walk in God's Presence?

**SPONSORS:**

They have.

**ARCHBISHOP:**

Have they shared the company of their Christian  
brothers and sisters and joined them in prayer?

**SPONSOR:**

They have.

*The Archbishop now asks the entire assembled Community  
to express its approval of the Catechumens:*

**ARCHBISHOP:**

Now I ask you, the members of the assembled  
Community:

Are you willing to affirm the testimony expressed by these Catechumens and support them in faith, prayer and example as we prepare to celebrate the Easter Sacraments.

**ALL:** We are.

## **INVITATION AND ENROLMENT OF NAMES**

Then addressing the Catechumens in the following words, the Archbishop advises them of their acceptance and asks them to declare their own intentions:

### **ARCHBISHOP:**

And now, my dear Catechumens I address you. Your own Sponsors 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 presence of the whole Church.

Therefore, do you wish to enter fully into the life of the Church through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist?

**CATECHUMENS:**

We do.

**ARCHBISHOP:**

Then offer your names for enrolment.



The Deacon /Co-ordinator from each Parish approaches the Archbishop together with his/her Catechumens and Sponsors with the BOOK OF THE ELECT. The Archbishop accepts the Book and signs it.

The Archbishop then presents each Catechumen and with a Psalm, a symbol of God's Word, strengthening and sustaining them as they complete their Journey to Baptism and full Communion with the Church. During this time suitable hymns will be sung.



## **ACT OF ADMISSION OR ELECTION**

*The Archbishop briefly explains the significance of the Enrolment that has just taken place, then turning to the Catechumens, he says the following words:*

### **ARCHBISHOP:**

My dear Catechumens I now declare you to be members of the "ELECT" and to be initiated into the sacred mysteries at the next Easter Vigil.

**THE ELECT:** Thanks be to God.

### **ARCHBISHOP:**

God is always faithful to those He calls: Now it is your duty, as it is ours, both to be faithful to Him in return and to strive courageously to reach the fullness of truth, which your Election opens up before you.

*The Archbishop now turns to the Sponsors and instructs them in these words:*

### **ARCHBISHOP:**

Sponsors, you have spoken in favour of these Catechumens: Accept them now as chosen in the Lord and continue to sustain them through your loving care and example, until they come to share in the Sacraments of God's life.

## ***INTERCESSIONS FOR THE ELECT***

### **ARCHBISHOP:**

My Brothers and Sisters, in beginning this period of Lent, we look forward to celebrating at Easter the life-giving mysteries of our Lord's suffering, death and resurrection. The Elect, whom we bring with us to the Easter Sacraments, will look to us for example of Christian renewal. Let us pray to the Lord for them and for ourselves, that we may be renewed by one another's efforts and together come to share the joys of Easter.

### **CATECHIST:**

That together we may fruitfully employ this Lenten Season to renew ourselves through self-denial and works of holiness.

**Let us pray to the Lord.....**

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

### **CATECHIST:**

That our Elect may always remember this day of their Election and be grateful for the blessings they have received from Heaven.

**Let us pray to the Lord...**

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

### **CATECHIST:**

That their Catechists may always convey the beauty of God's Word to those who search for it.

**Let us pray to the Lord.....**

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**



**CATECHIST:**

That their Sponsors may be living examples of the Gospel. **Let us pray to the Lord.....**

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**CATECHIST:**

That their Families, far from placing any obstacles in the way of these Elect, may help them to follow the prompting of the Spirit.

**Let us pray to the Lord.....**

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**CATECHIST:**

That our Community, during this Lenten period, may grow in love and be in constant prayer.

**Let us pray to the Lord.....**

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**CATECHIST:**

That those who have not yet overcome their hesitation may trust in Christ as our brothers and sisters. **Let us pray to the Lord.....**

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

***PRAYER OVER THE ELECT***

**ARCHBISHOP:**

Father of love and power,  
it is your will to establish everything in  
Christ and to draw us into His all embracing love.

Guide the Elect of your Church, strengthen them in their vocation, build them into the Kingdom of your Son, Jesus, and seal them with the Spirit of your promise.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**ALL:** Amen

***DISMISSAL***

*The Archbishop now dismisses all present.*

**ARCHBISHOP:**

My dear Elect,  
You have set out with us on the road that leads to the glory of Easter the glory of your Initiation into Christ at the Easter Vigil. We will all be with you on this road, journeying together with Christ. We will meet again at the Mass for the Neophytes in which we will celebrate your experience of your initiation and give thanks for all the blessings poured out on you. Christ will be your way, your truth and your life. Until we meet again, walk always in his peace. May the Lord remain with you always.



**ELECT AND ALL PRESENT:** Thanks be to God

**RECESSIONAL HYMN:** Our God Reigns

# THANK YOU

To all who contributed towards making the Rite of Election a wonderful celebration.

- Archbishop, Vicar General, Parish Priests, Deacons, Co-ordinators & Catechists.
- Our musicians.
- All our Elect and their Sponsors.
- Fr Jeffrey and the Parish of Our Lady Help of Christians.
- All who helped in many small and often unnoticed ways.

**MAY GOD LOVE YOU AND BLESS YOU DURING  
THIS TIME OF LENT  
MAY GOD LET HIS FACE SHINE UPON YOU.....**

**MAY GOD GIVE YOU HIS GIFT OF PEACE.**