



# Welcome To RCIA 2011/2012

(Rite of Catholic Initiation of Adults)



# RCIA

Rite of Catholic Initiation of Adults  
In Search Of God



Opening Prayer



## What is the RCIA ?

- Is it a course?
  - Yes, but it is more than that.
- Is it a programme?
  - Yes, but it is more than that.
- It is a journey.
  - A journey of faith, where friends share their joy, wonder and (yes) even sorrow.
- It is process
  - A process of Christian conversion.



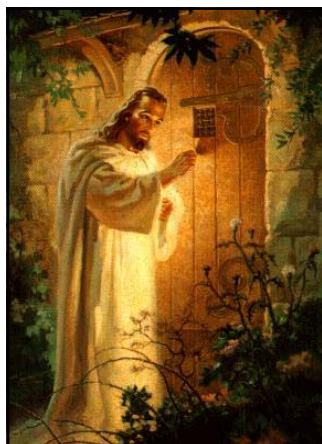
## In Search Of God ...

- A little story:  
The Scientist and The Sculptor



## Spiritual vs Secular Life

- Another story:  
Fisherman resting by his boat
- "Our heart remain restless till we find refuge in the Lord."  
– St Augustine



Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.  
Revelation 3:20

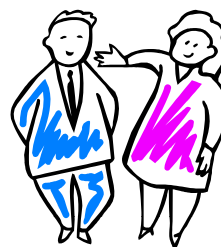


### An Invitation ...

- Luke 19:1-10 (Zacchaeus)

#### Luke 19:1-10 (Zacchaeus)

1 He entered Jericho and was passing through it. 2 A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax-collector and was rich. 3 He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. 4 So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. 5 When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, 'Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.' 6 So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. 7 All who saw it began to grumble and said, 'He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.' 8 Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, 'Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.' 9 Then Jesus said to him, 'Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. 10 For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.'



#### Getting to know each other ...

- Your name
- Your religious background
- What brought you to the RCIA?  
What brought you here to this evening?



### Responding to the invitation ...

- Mark 1:16-20 (Calling of disciples)

#### Mark 1:16-20 (Calling of disciples)

16 As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fish for people.' 18 And immediately they left their nets and followed him. 19 As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. 20 Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.




## Why are you here?



## RCIA

- A process for preparing and welcoming new members into the Catholic Church
- Caters for
  - Those seeking Baptism
  - Baptised Christians from other denominations seeking to join the Catholic Church
  - Baptised Catholics seeking to renew their faith




## Format

- 32 Faith Formation Sessions
- Attendance at weekend masses from mid-Oct.
- Evening sessions on every Tuesday 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm (Please be punctual)
  - Presentation
  - Discussion / Sharing over a cup of coffee
- Commences 26 July 11  
Concludes 27 May 12 (Pentecost)
- No meeting during school holidays
- Conversion comes from the heart, you will never be "forced".




## 4 Stages

- Pre-Catechumenate : *Finding Out*
- Catechumenate : *Learning*
- Purification & Enlightenment : *Challenge*
- Mystagogia : *Living Your Faith*



## Your Commitment

- Attendance at all evening sessions
- Attendance at all weekend masses (from Week 8)
- Inform RCIA Coordinator (Howard) if you are unable to attend any session.
- Support and pray for each other



## RCIA is a journey

- What Do We Do On A Journey?
  - Make friends
  - Tour With A Group
  - Guided
  - We Learn



## RCIA is a faith journey, who do you travel with ?

- Tour Guide
  - Priests, Catechists
- A Companion
  - Sponsors, Godparents
- Support of a Tour Group
  - Support of the Parish Community



## Sponsors / Godparents *(RCIA 10 & 11)*

- Accompany, sustain and guide the candidate
- Bear witness to the candidate's moral character, faith and intention
- Accompanies the candidate at various rites and ceremonies



## Sponsors / Godparents

- Requirements
  - Intention & maturity to carry out the responsibility
  - Must receive 3 sacraments of initiation
  - Living a life consistent with faith
  - Attendance of all sessions with the candidates



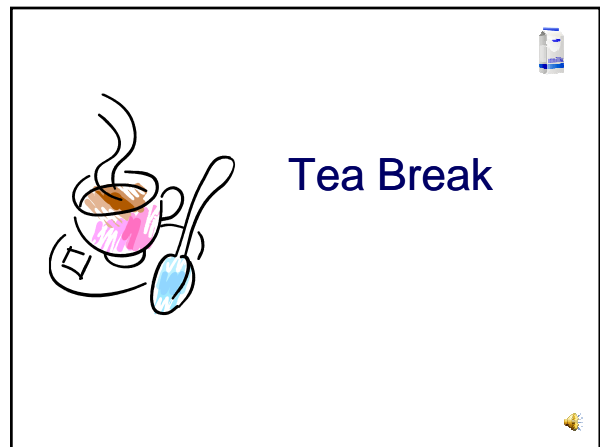
## Other Roles

- Catechists
- Community
- Priests & Bishop



## Admin matters ...

- Reference Books
- Welcome Folder
  - Pamphlet
  - Calendar
  - Registration Form
  - Faith Milestone Sheet





## Discussion

- What brought you here this evening?
- What do you expect from this journey?
- Do you have any concern or apprehension?

## Getting To Know Jesus Better ...

- Fanciful Jesus
- Historical Jesus
- Jesus As Teacher
- Jesus As Saviour

God

me

- 1+1 = 2
- Religion
- Believe

## Getting To Know Jesus Better ...

- Indwelling

God

me


- 1+1 = 1
- Faith
- Being

"It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me."  
- Galatians 2:20

## Recap

- Seeking and knowing God
- RCIA: Purpose and Format
- RCIA is a journey

## Q&A




## Contacts

- Name list will be prepared at the end of this Pre-Catechumenate (Finding Out) period
- In the meantime, any questions/problems/issues, contact:
 


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Email: <a href="mailto:howard.ong@aurora-consult.com.au">howard.ong@aurora-consult.com.au</a>	

Alternatively, you may also contact the Parish Priest.




## Further Readings

- At Home With God's People*  
(ISBN 0-947282-13-0)  
Chapter 1
- Path Through Catholicism*  
(ISBN 0-7829-0971-X)  
Chapter 1




## Notices



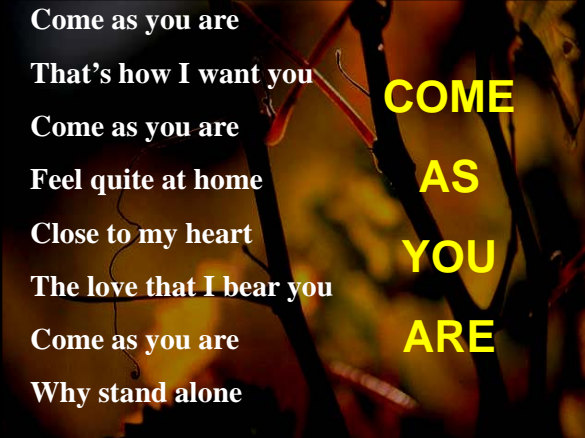
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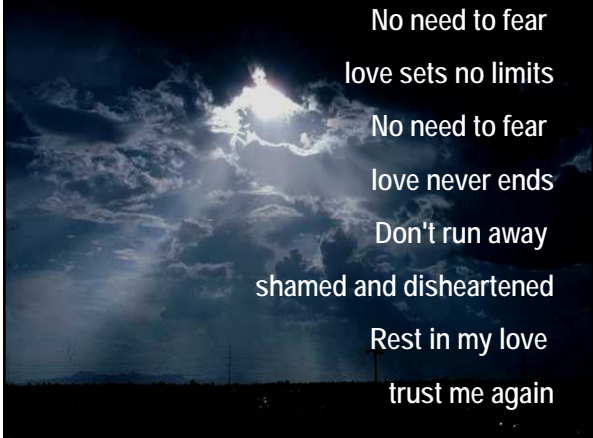
## Closing Prayer

“God, I heard so much about you. Yet I don’t know if you are even real. God, guide us through this journey that we are beginning tonight; and help us to get to know you. Amen.”

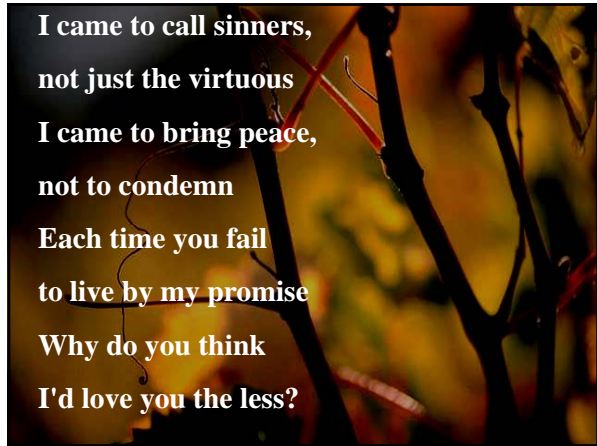


Come as you are  
That’s how I want you  
Come as you are  
Feel quite at home  
Close to my heart  
The love that I bear you  
Come as you are  
Why stand alone

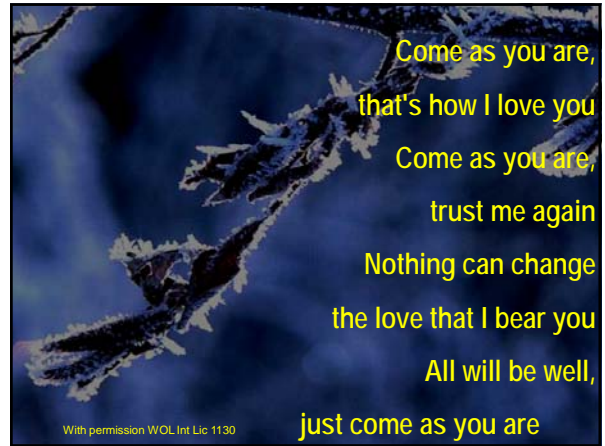
**COME  
AS  
YOU  
ARE**



No need to fear  
love sets no limits  
No need to fear  
love never ends  
Don't run away  
shamed and disheartened  
Rest in my love  
trust me again



I came to call sinners,  
not just the virtuous  
I came to bring peace,  
not to condemn  
Each time you fail  
to live by my promise  
Why do you think  
I'd love you the less?



Come as you are,  
that's how I love you  
Come as you are,  
trust me again  
Nothing can change  
the love that I bear you  
All will be well,  
just come as you are

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