



RCIA

Rite of Catholic Initiation of Adults
Information Evening



What is the RCIA ?

- Rite of Catholic Initiation of Adults
- A process for preparing and welcoming new members into the Catholic Church.
- A process to help baptised Catholics to renew their faith.
- A journey of faith



RCIA ...

- Caters for
 - Those seeking Baptism
 - Baptised Christians from other denominations seeking to join the Catholic Church
 - Baptised Catholics seeking to renew their faith



Format

- 33 Faith Formation Sessions
- Attendance at weekend masses from mid-Sep.
- 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 22 May 12 (Pentecost)
- No meeting during school holidays
- Conversion comes from the heart, you will never be "forced".



Your Commitment

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



Scripture Sharing

- Matthew 13:3-8,18-23

Matthew 13:3-8,18-23 (Parable of the Sower)

3 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. 6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 18 'Hear then the parable of the sower. 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. 22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. 23 But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'



4 Distinct Stages

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



Pre-Catechumenate

Finding Out

Driver's Licence Analogy:
Inquiring the requirements for a driver's licence.



Pre-Catechumenate (Jul-Sep) *Finding Out*

- 7 weeks
- "Inquirers"
- A time to tell your "stories"
- A time to ask questions
- Making new friends with similar needs and inquiries
- Basic information about our faith



"Finding Out" Topics

- Introduction to
 - God
 - Faith
 - The Bible
 - Prayer



Rite of Welcome / Acceptance

Inquirers seek and gain the acceptance of the worshipping community



The Catechumenate

Learning

Driver's Licence Analogy:
L Plate. Learning how to drive.



The Catechumenate (Sep-Feb) *Learning*

- 15 weeks
- "Catechumens"
(Latin *Catechumenus* – instructed)
- Teachings & Beliefs
- Traditions, Customs, Practices
- Prayers, Scripture & Worship
- Community & Fellowship
- Attendance at weekend masses, dismissal



"Learning" Topics

- The Mass
- The Ten Commandments
- Saints & Mary
- Prayers
- Salvation History
- Death & Afterlife
- The Sacraments



Rite of Election

The Candidates are "sent" as the apostles were sent, to be received by the Bishop and the worshipping community. They are "elected" to receive the Easter sacraments.



Purification & Enlightenment

Challenge

Driver's Licence Analogy:
Taking the driving test.



Purification & Enlightenment (Mar-Apr) *Challenge*

- 6 weeks
- "Elect"
- During Lent
- Conversion and repentance
- Reflect and "scrutinise" our lives
- Continued attendance at weekend masses, dismissal



“Challenge” Topics

- The Sacraments of Initiation
- Sins & Reconciliation



Rite of Initiation (Easter Vigil)

- Accepted as full member of the community by:
 - The Waters of Baptism
 - Profession of faith



Rite of Initiation (Easter Vigil)

- The Waters of Baptism
- The Anointing Oil and Gifts of the Holy Spirit through Confirmation
- The Eucharistic meal : the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord
- Sent on mission to Love and Serve



Mystagogia

Living Your Faith

Driver's Licence Analogy:
P Plate. Get used to driving on your own.



Mystagogia (May-Jun) *Living Your Faith*

- 5 weeks
- “Neophytes”



Mystagogia

- “Living your faith”
- Topics to help the candidates live and deepen their faith
- Introduced to the groups and organisations in the Parish
- Becomes part of the community



“Living Your Faith” Topics

- Reflection & Reconciliation
- Evangelisation
- Suffering
- Faith, Work & Talent
- Parish life



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

- Tour Guide
 - Bishop, Priest, Catechists
- A Companion
 - Sponsors, Godparents, Hospitality Team
- Support of a Tour Group
 - Support of the Parish Community



Sponsor (RCIA 10)

- Accompanies the candidate
- Witness to the candidate's moral character, faith and intention
- Accompanies the candidate at
 - Rite of Acceptance
 - Catechumenate (Learning)



Godparents (RCIA 11)

- Shows candidate how to practise the Gospel
- Sustains candidate
- Bears witness
- Guides the candidate post-baptism
- Accompanies the candidate at
 - Rite of Election
 - Rite of Initiation
 - Mystagogia (Living Your Faith)



Requirements

- Sponsors and Godparents
 - 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

- Bishop
 - Sets up the programme of pastoral formation
 - Admits the candidate at Rite of Election
- Priests
 - Provide pastoral and personal care of the candidates
 - Provide instructions to the candidates, assisted by catechists



Notices



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