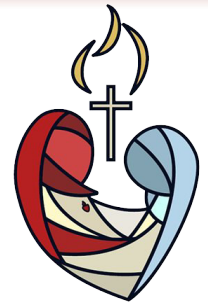


Pymble Catholic Parish



The Rite Of Christian Initiation Of Adults (RCIA)

Welcoming people into the Catholic Church. A program by which non-Catholics enter the Catholic faith or for Catholics to expand their knowledge of their faith.

Becoming Catholic means undertaking a progressive spiritual program. This will normally take about six to seven months depending on the readiness of each individual. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, this life-transforming program of Christian initiation involves a series of sessions with members of the faithful, to pray together, to learn about the life of Jesus through the Gospels, and to discuss what His message means for us in everyday life.

An important program objective is to enlighten, inform and discuss Catholic beliefs and practices, interspersed with moving ceremonies, or “Rites”¹, at each stage to signify the steps along the way. The whole program is called the “Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults” or in short, RCIA.

The program is a gradual process of understanding God's call and becoming aware of God's presence in your life. Initiation into the Catholic Church is through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. If you are seeking Baptism, you begin your process called the Catechumenate, and if you are already baptised in another Christian tradition you follow a process of continuing conversion leading up to Reception, Confirmation and First Communion. The Easter Vigil is usually the time to celebrate these Sacraments of Initiation and is a time of great joy for you and your family.

Who Is The RCIA For?

- Adults who are not baptised
- Adults who are already baptised in another Christian Church
- Catholics and Orthodox who are not confirmed
- Non-practising Catholics who wish to renew their faith

In fact, anyone who may be interested in learning more about the Catholic Faith. All are welcome.

Who Will Walk With You?

You will be joining a community, and you will be accompanied along the way by members of that community who share with you their own faith. These accompanying persons are called the RCIA team, and their role to assist you in understanding the Sacraments according to the Catholic tradition. Our parish priest and all the members of the parish community will be your companions and guides.

As you progress, you will meet with your Bishop and the wider Catholic community.

¹ A religious or other solemn ceremony or act.

What Is Involved With The RCIA Program?

There are four steps to the RCIA program. Each step concludes with a community ceremony, or Rite, which acts as a starting point to the next stage. At each Rite, the candidates affirm their intention to proceed to the next stage while the community commits to supporting them as they progress.

The four RCIA program steps are given below.

1. Enquiry

Candidates make initial enquiries about the Catholic faith in the company of like-minded people.

Community Ceremony: Rite of Acceptance, Rite of Welcome

2. Catechumenate: Formation in Christian Life

A period learning about the teaching of Jesus through the Gospels and reflecting on how Catholics bear witness to their faith.

Community Ceremony: Rite of Election

3. Preparation for Easter

(Period of Purification and Enlightenment)

This period coincides with Lent. It's a period of more intense preparation and prayer which culminates with the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter (Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Communion).

Community Ceremony: Sacraments of Initiation

4. Deepening of Faith (Mystagogia²)

Having received the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil, we reflect on the experience and the direction of our lives. (Where to from here?)

Community Ceremony: Missioning Ceremony

Come And See

A starting point to RCIA is to contact the parish office and leave your contact details with the office staff. The office will arrange for a member of the RCIA group to contact you.

There is no cost attached to this program. You may withdraw at any time. You may wish to simply make enquiries at this stage and you are welcome to do so.

The Pymble Catholic Parish community is ready to welcome and accompany you. It is the Holy Spirit who has led you thus far and it is the Holy Spirit who will invite you to open your heart and life to God.

² From the Greek mystagogos, the term refers to a process of initiation into "mysteries".