



WHAT IS THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)?

Becoming Catholic means undertaking a spiritual journey. This will normally take about 12 months depending on the readiness of each individual. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, this life-transforming journey 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 discuss what His message means for us in everyday life.

Another important aspect of the sessions is to enlighten, inform and discuss Catholic beliefs and practices, interspersed with moving ceremonies or 'Rites' at each stage to signify the steps along the way. The whole journey is called the 'Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults' or RCIA for short.

The journey is a gradual process of realising God's call and becoming aware of God's presence in your life. Initiation into the Catholic Church is done through 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 of celebration of 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 & 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 THE JOURNEY WITH YOU?

Essentially you will be joining a community, and hence 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 it is their role to assist you in understanding the Sacraments according to the Catholic tradition. Our parish priest and all the members of this parish community will be your companions and guides.

As your journey progresses you will meet with your Bishop and the wider Catholic community.

WHAT DOES THE RCIA JOURNEY INVOLVE?

There are four steps on the RCIA Journey. Each one concludes with a community ceremony (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 on their journey.

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 of 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 (Mystagogia)

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

Community Ceremony: Missioning Ceremony

COME AND SEE

A starting point to RCIA is to contact the parish office and ask for Fr Tony, leaving your return contact details.

You could also complete and send the RCIA Enquiry Form, available on this website, to the parish office

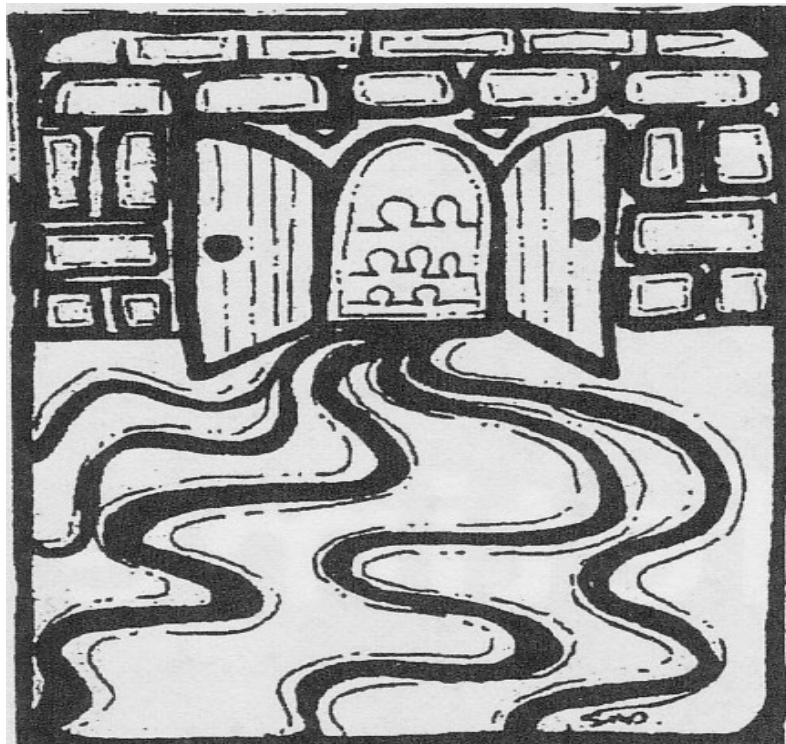
There is no cost attached, and you may withdraw at any point along the journey. You may wish simply to make enquiries at this stage and you are most welcome to do so.

St Monica's Catholic Church
22 Robinson St
Moonee Ponds Vic 3039

Telephone: 9370 5035
Email: mooneeponds@cam.org.au

Interested in helping on the RCIA Team?

Parishioners may wish to help in the RCIA team, as sponsors, catechists, etc. after some suitable training. We would welcome your enquiry. Contact the parish office.



The Catholic community of St Monica's 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!