

NEWSLETTER

VOL 28 - MAY 2023



REFLECTION

Throughout the season of Easter, we have been savouring the mysteries of our faith and deepening our understanding of what it means for all of us to be missionary disciples of Jesus. As we have seen through the gospel readings of the Easter season, the disciples experienced many highs and lows as they experienced the death of Jesus and then his resurrection; a renewed closeness with him after the Resurrection, and then the dawning realisation that this was about to change, particularly when he spoke to them about leaving them, going to the Father to prepare a place for them. The promise Jesus made that he would send his Spirit to remain with them did little at first to console them; they, understandably, wanted the Jesus they knew and had walked with to remain with them in human form.

During the season of Easter, we have been conscious of those in our parishes who have journeyed towards Easter to become fully initiated in the Church through the sacraments of initiation, Baptism, Confirmation and first Communion. These neophytes, or new Catholics, have been welcomed into our Catholic community and have benefited from the interest and support of many in our parishes who have journeyed with them in the lead-up to Easter. In a significant way, these neophytes provide a beacon of hope for all of us; as they continue the journey of engaging more deeply with fellow disciples of Jesus,

they bring with them a newness in the faith, a desire to know Jesus more fully, and to be of service to the community.

The wonderful feast of Pentecost takes up this sense of renewal in the faith when we celebrate the release of the Spirit into our lives. This is a time of renewal for the whole Church, as well as for each of us. What we are called to in this time is a deeper sense of what it means to be a missionary disciple of Jesus, willing and able to go out to the whole world, as Jesus commanded, and to preach the good news about Jesus. Our own baptismal commitment is about identifying with the risen Lord, living our faith and sharing it with others; on a daily basis we are called to renew our commitment to be close to the Lord and to be joyful messengers of the gospel.

As Jesus promised, the Spirit is here to stay; our lives continue to be animated by the Spirit, so, as people of faith, we, too, are called to invite others to **'Come and See'** what it means to be a follower of Jesus: this is our corporate mission to the world. We give thanks and praise to God for leading our neophytes to our Church as, together, we continue the journey of breaking down any barriers and isolations and walk together, along the road, as disciples with purpose.

Together we pray, **"Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth."**

Kathy Horan

RCIA Coordinator

WHAT NEXT?

Now that we are in the time post Pentecost, or ordinary time and are continuing the journey with our neophytes, how can we continue to support them and also bring the whole community along?



SOME THOUGHTS FOR PONDERING:

How do we continue to give our neophytes opportunities to gather and to reflect on their experiences?

What opportunities exist within our parishes for neophytes to engaged more fully in the life of the local parish?

A Resource from **Team RCIA** describes a way of continuing to do Mystagogy, or to engage with, the sacred mysteries, by continuing to meditate on the gospels, sharing in the eucharist, and doing works of charity. To do this, it suggests a 5 point process:

- **Choose an event** from daily life that is important to me and engages me;
- **Remember** what happened: talk to others and remember the event, identifying the memory of the event and what it has meant for me/us;
- **Reflect on the bigger picture:** e.g what else is going on in my life, in my family that is or can be connected to this concrete experience?
- **Connect this memory/experience** with your faith: Ask yourself, what does this memory/experience teach me about God, about Christ, the church, the community?
- **Make a change:** Ask yourself, what will I do differently in my life as a result of seeing connections to my faith? How and where can I reach out to be of service to others?

UPCOMING EVENTS

ADULT CONFIRMATION - Saturday, July 29th at 6.00 p.m. Mass at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral.

This is for those adults who have been baptised but not yet confirmed. There will be two preparations sessions for candidates ahead of the Confirmation.

Register interest via the **Office for Worship** on: 82108130 or **Kathy Horan** on: 82108288

ONLINE RESOURCES

Christian Initiation of Adults Network ciannetwork.net

On this national website you will find the following resources that would be useful for RCIA groups/formation:

- Resources and tools
- RCIA for children
- Testimonials
- Network news

If you are not a member of this network, registration details and processes are available online at the above address. Membership allows access to a range of resources, articles, webinars etc.

Catholic Enquiry Centre: Becoming Catholic

[· Discovering God - Who is God?](#)

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

If you need support in your parish to set up a team or to re-group for the coming year, please consider the following:

- Contact the RCIA Coordinator - **Kathy Horan**: 8210 8288 or the **Office for Worship**: 8210 8130
- Consider joining with another or other parishes in your region to share an information or inservice session around the topic of the RCIA process, how to get started, sharing good practice and resources etc.
- Think about ways of raising the profile of the RCIA process in your parish

For any other enquiries about how to get started, or how to renew the RCIA process in your parish, please contact: **Kathy Horan | khoran@adelaide.catholic.org.au | 8210 8288**



'At Home with God's People'

Archdiocese of Brisbane

ahwgp.com



'Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults' - Study Edition

stpauls.com.au



Team RCIA Website

Note: Some areas of this site requires a paid membership.

teamrcia.com

USEFUL RESOURCES FOR RCIA