

# NEWSLETTER

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# REFLECTION

This is the time of year when we are working towards winding down this year's activities and commitments, while at the same time trying to find the energy and enthusiasm for making arrangements for the following year. It can be a stressful time, but for many parishes, this is a time of **welcoming new inquirers** into our communities and walking with them as companions as they seek to find out what it might mean for them to become Catholic. We are rapidly approaching the end of this liturgical year and then looking forward to a new year in the liturgical calendar with the beginning of the Advent season. Just prior to Advent, we celebrate the wonderful feast of Christ the King, where we reflect on the mission of Jesus to bring good news to the world and to demonstrate the most powerful way of doing this: by announcing the good news of God's enduring love for us, by showing us how to be of service to one another and the most needy in our society, and by inviting us into a deeper relationship with the Lord in prayer.



For those who have come to our communities seeking to find Jesus through the RCIA process, this is a rich time of preparation with the community. They have been invited to **'come and see'** what the Catholic community **believes**, how the community **lives, prays** and **follows Jesus**, and how the community comes together to **minister** to those in great need. The fact that people are coming along and wanting to be part of the Catholic community is a sign of hope for us and for the world, and so it is with joyful hope that we accompany them on the journey of faith and developing a personal relationship with the Lord. This work of accompaniment is the work of the whole parish. Indeed, the questions of inquirers and their thirst for knowledge and relationship within the community, provide added impetus for the community, as together we seek to know Jesus more clearly, to love him more dearly and to follow him daily.

This takes us to the heart of the RCIA and its purpose: to invite and to support people on their journey of faith to become disciples of Jesus. In this initial stage of the RCIA which will continue through Advent, our communities are called to be places of hospitality and welcome where we can share the good news of Jesus for the world. During the season of Advent, many spiritual gems will be offered to us for our reflection and preparation as we look forward once more to the celebration of the birth of Jesus and the unfolding of his life during the new liturgical year. During the season of Advent, we are invited to wait in joyful hope for the coming of the Lord: we are challenged to **'stay awake!'** to **'Walk in the light of the Lord'**, **'prepare a way for the Lord'** and to **'rejoice in the Lord always!'** What a wonderful time for us to renew our lives in readiness for the celebration of Christmas and to share the joy and anticipation of this season with our inquirers!

As we prepare ourselves and our communities for the celebration of the birth of the Christ-child at Christmas, may we be mindful of journeying with others who wish to become part of our Church. These inquirers have responded to a movement within them to **'Come and see'** what the Catholic faith is all about, to get to know Jesus in a deep personal relationship, to find out what life is like among the believers and to experience communities being involved actively in the mission of Jesus through outreach to the most vulnerable. May we continue to love and serve God with joyful and generous hearts, and find the peace that only a God of tenderness and compassion can provide.

**Kathy Horan**

RCIA Coordinator





# RESOURCES

## Christian Initiation Australia Network (CIAN)

This is a national group that offers resources to equip parishes in the RCIA journey. Some of these resources are via webinars that are open to all, as for example the webinar that will take place on Thursday, November 16th. (See flyer for details and for registering) Other resources include testimonies from people who have been part of the RCIA and who have been willing to reflect on their journey. There is also a publication called **Network News** that contains articles and shared experiences from members of the Executive and others involved in the RCIA.

As you will see on the flyer below, details relating to **CIAN** are included; if you are a member, you will have access to a wide range of resources, including those mentioned above. If you are not yet a member, maybe now is the time to think about a subscription.



 **Christian Initiation**  
Australia Network

CIAN Executive Members Present:

## HOT BUTTON ETHICAL TOPICS FOR THE RCIA

Hosted by Br Bernard  
Mary Fonkalsrud OFM

With presenters,  
Simon Yeak &  
Dr. Christine Wood

**Thursday 16 November | 7pm - 8:15pm AEDT**

Register via the following URL (Zoom link will be sent to you once registered): <https://www.ciannetwork.net/event/hot-button-ethical-topics-for-the-rcia>



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## Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens

Please note the [link](#) to an outline for the **Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens** and the **Rite of Welcoming Candidates into full communion with the Church**.

Many parishes may find it helpful to download this material as they move towards acknowledging those seeking to enter more fully into the RCIA.

