



## Reflection

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The **Easter Vigil** is the highpoint of our liturgical celebration as the completion of the triduum. This ceremony is full of light, love, joy, gladness, excitement, thanksgiving, rejoicing and remembering with thankful hearts all that Jesus achieved for us. We bring back the **alleluias** and songs of joy and gladness that what God promised has happened: **Jesus has risen from the dead** and overcome suffering, pain, trauma and death. It is during the Easter Vigil that the waters are blessed, signifying the waters of everlasting life that cleanse, rejuvenate and give new life.

The **Paschal Candle** is lit and carried into the darkened Church as a sign of the light of Christ for the world, overcoming darkness and despair. During this celebration we hear many stories from our Scriptures that retell God's involvement in human history, culminating in the sending of God's Son into the world, human as we are, entrusted with the mission of announcing God's good news to the world. This is our family story and at the Easter Vigil we listen, we take it to heart and we continue to be amazed at God's great love for us, shown most profoundly in the life, mission and death of Jesus.

The great good news is that, though Jesus was subjected to unspeakably brutal suffering and pain, God raised Jesus to life and because of that we are all able to be renewed in our faith, our hope and our love. The risen Lord is among us, continuing to call us to follow him more faithfully, sure in the knowledge of being loved and cherished. The Easter vigil is a timely reminder to all of us of our call to identify with the risen Lord and to respond faithfully as missionary disciples.

At the Easter Vigil, our elect were fully initiated into the Catholic community through the celebration of the sacraments of Initiation, namely, Baptism, Confirmation and first Communion. For all these people, the journey continues; they have come to faith in the risen Lord and their enthusiasm and gratitude for their faith is indeed heartening for the whole community. The Easter season is a time for all of us to give thanks to God, to reflect on all that has happened, and to take the deep meanings intended to provide us with the ways and means to live our lives full of Easter hope and joy.

We go forward as an **Easter people**, with every reason to be people of hope, joy and a sign of God's goodness to all we encounter. In his apostolic exhortation 'Rejoice and Exult,' Pope Francis urges us to stay close to Christ and to heed the call to build up the Kingdom of God.

**Kathy Horan**  
RCIA Coordinator

## MYSTAGOGY

This is a strange-sounding name for a wonderful part of the RCIA journey, a time of **post-Baptismal Catechesis**. This stage of the Initiation process continues throughout the Easter festival of fifty days, and is a time for savouring and delving more deeply into the meaning of becoming initiated into the Catholic faith and the mission of Jesus.

Having had the experience of being baptised, confirmed and received first Communion at the Easter Vigil, our new Catholics continue to journey with us in exploring further the mysteries of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and what this means for us.

At the same time, our communities are called to share in the Easter joy of their faith

and to re-commit to being missionary disciples, willing and able to proclaim the good news of the Resurrection. In our Easter Vigil liturgy, the symbols drew our attention to the movement from darkness into **light**, from death to **life**, from weakness to strength, from isolation to **community** and from hunger to **nourishment**.

The gospel readings during the Easter season focus on how we can continue our journey as missionary disciples of Jesus in the world. When we are baptised, we are baptised **into Christ** and we receive a new life **in Christ, as members of one body**, as St. Paul teaches in his letters to the Christian communities.



We reflect on the story of the Good Shepherd, and recall Jesus' words: "**I am the Good Shepherd**: I know my sheep and they know me."

Again, in John's gospel, we hear Jesus say: "**I am the real vine**, and my Father is the gardener...Remain united to me, and I will remain united to you. A branch cannot bear fruit by itself; it can do so only if it remains in the vine. In the same way, you cannot bear fruit unless you remain in me. "**I am the vine, and you are the branches.**" (John 15:1,4-5)

In these gospel stories, it is clear that **union with Christ** is at the heart of the matter: an entering into a deep personal relationship with the Lord. The call to the whole community is to look with fresh eyes at these truths that we celebrate and call to mind each year. .

Our new Catholics provide us with opportunities to share our faith and to draw closer to one another and the Lord.

Jesus' words to Thomas provide us again with assurance that in remaining with, close to, and in harmony with the risen Lord, we will never be lost or alone on our journey. Jesus said to Thomas: "**I am the way, the truth and the life**; no one goes to the Father except by me." (John 14:6-7)

How privileged we are, as Christians, to know ourselves loved and forgiven, to be offered the gift of peace and to feel empowered to be missionary disciples to our world. The call to all of us, individually and as communities, is to **remain close** to the risen Lord, and out of that closeness to radiate Christ to the world.

**Kathy Horan**  
RCIA Coordinator

## Upcoming Events

### Mystagogy Mass (Mass for New Catholics), **Sunday 21st May, 11:00am**

Hosted at the St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Adelaide

### Adult Confirmation, **Saturday 29th July, 6:00pm (Date changed)**

Hosted at the St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Adelaide

*For those adults who have been baptised but not yet confirmed. There will be two preparation sessions for the candidates ahead of the Confirmation ceremony. Details and dates for those sessions will be announced closer to the time.*

## Online Resources

### Christian Initiation of Adults Network: [ciannetwork.net](http://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 on-line at the above address. Membership allows access to a range of resources, articles, webinars etc.

### Office for Worship - templates for RCIA

All templates for RCIA rituals and scrutinies can be found on the OFW [website](http://ofw-adelaide.org.au/rcia-becoming-catholic.html).  
[ofw-adelaide.org.au/rcia-becoming-catholic.html](http://ofw-adelaide.org.au/rcia-becoming-catholic.html)

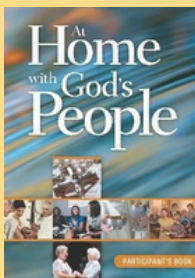
## Where to from here?

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

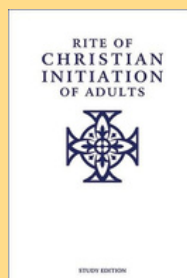
- Contact the RCIA Coordinator - Kathy Horan ph: 8210 8288 or the Office for Worship ph: 8210 8130
- Consider joining with another or other parishes in you region to share an information or inservice session around the topic of the RCIA process, how to get started, sharing good practice and resources 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](mailto:khoran@adelaide.catholic.org.au) | **8210 8288**

## USEFUL RESOURCES FOR RCIA



**'At Home with God's People'**  
 Archdiocese of Brisbane  
[ahwgp.com](http://ahwgp.com)



**'Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults'** -Study Edition  
[www.stpauls.com.au](http://www.stpauls.com.au)



**TeamRCIA Website**  
 Website: <https://teamrcia.com>  
*Note: Some areas of this website require a paid membership.*