



*It takes a
community to
nurture a
disciple*

Reflection

A Challenge:

“Go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

These final words of Jesus to the disciples provided them with a significant challenge, a way forward, and the promise of his abiding presence with them for all time – and no handbook of procedures to follow! A concern of the early Christian community was to find a way of sharing their faith in the risen Lord with those who came to them, seeking to become part of the group. In a time of uncertainty and confusion, the disciples and other early Christians knew their need of banding together as a community for support and encouragement to carry out the Lord’s mission. So they continued to meet together, to share the story of Jesus, to ponder more deeply on his actions, his values and teachings, and, importantly, on his ability to stand alongside the most needy and vulnerable in the community. In this context, they also broke the bread, prayed and gave thanks to God. Such was life among the believers. As chronicled in the Acts of the Apostles, ***“they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers, and the sharing of their resources with all in need.”*** (Acts 2:42-47)

An Invitation:

At the beginning of John's gospel, there is an account of an interaction between Jesus and two of his disciples who pose the question:

"Rabbi, where are you staying?" to which Jesus replies, **"Come and see."** (John 1:38-39) They accepted the invitation and spent the day with Jesus. They were curious and seeking something more or different in life, and accepted the invitation to follow Jesus. Did they know what they were getting themselves into? Certainly, there was an attraction to Jesus and a desire to get to know him and what he was on about, but, understandably, they still had questions, doubts and confusions as they travelled the journey. As for ourselves, their journey in faith and search for deeper meaning in life took many twists and turns and called them back to ponder Jesus' question: "Who do **you** say that I am?"

Come & See!

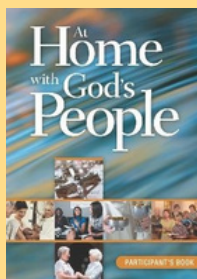
A parish effort:

This is the dynamic at work in the process of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*, when adult inquirers come along to begin the journey, initially, of getting to know who Jesus is and then developing a personal relationship with Jesus through prayer and reflection on the Scriptures. They do this in the context of a local parish, where they experience at first hand what the community does to carry out Jesus' mission. As adult inquirers journey with the community, they are supported in their desire to become Catholic; they then take part in more formative learning about the faith with a view to becoming Catholic through the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil. As for the early Christian community, so for our parish communities today: **it takes a community** to nourish and welcome new disciples through the RCIA process.

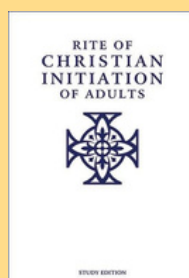
Many parishes are in the process of beginning the RCIA process at the moment. As missionary disciples of Jesus by reason of our baptism, how can we continue to go out to the whole world and spread the good news of Jesus? What can we do at the local level to invite would-be inquirers to **'Come and See?'**

Kathy Horan
RCIA Coordinator

USEFUL RESOURCES FOR RCIA



'At Home with God's People'
Archdiocese of Brisbane
afe.fl@bne.catholic.net.au



'Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults' -Study Edition
www.stpauls.com.au



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

Period of Evangelization and Pre-Catechumenate

This is an initial period of time set aside to enable priests, catechists and other laypeople to explore and provide some explanations of the Gospel message. Through a careful reading, proclamation and reflection on the Gospels, potential candidates are invited to 'come and see' what the Catholic community is all about. This is a call to a personal relationship with Jesus and with a community of disciples. It is also a call to a new way of life and a journey in faith.

(Note: This period usually commences around late July/August; however, there may be local variations on this.)

Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens

This is the first public acknowledgement of those seeking to become members of the Church. They declare their intention to the Church and the Church accepts them as people who intend to become faithful members of the Church. It signals an initial conversion and the first stirrings of repentance, a beginning to the practice of prayer, a sense of Church and some experience of a sense of the company and experience of members of the Christian community.

The Rite of Acceptance

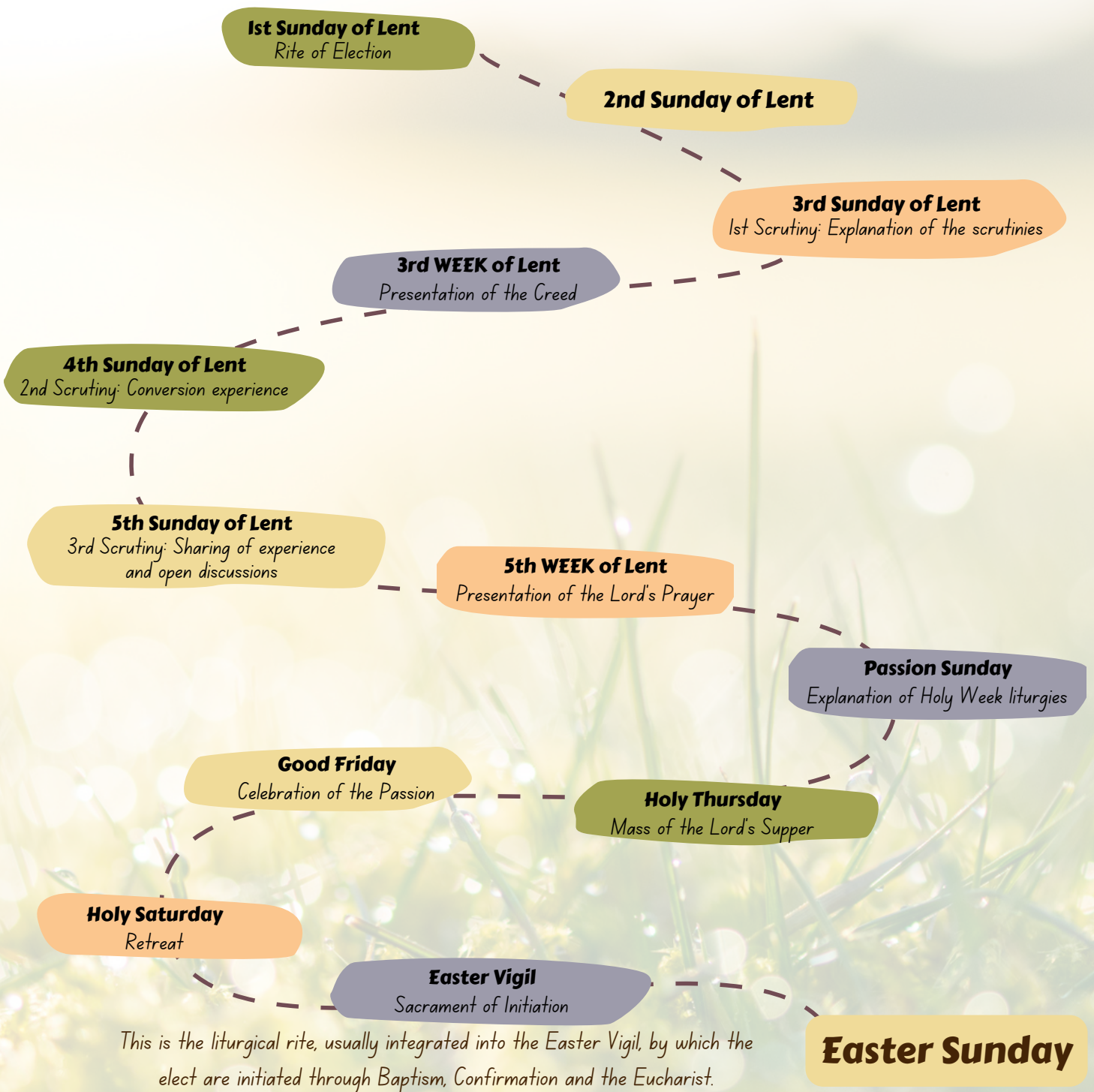
The Rite of Acceptance consists of a reception of the candidates, the celebration of the Word of God, and the dismissal of the candidates. It is highly desirable that the Christian community, or at least a significant representation of the community be present to welcome, offer support and hospitality to those beginning on this journey of conversion. After the Rite of Acceptance, the names of candidates are recorded in the register of catechumens, along with the names of sponsors and the minister and the date and place of celebration.

(Note: This rite usually takes place around the first Sunday of Advent.)

Election or enrolment of names

This is the liturgical rite, usually celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent, by which the Church formally ratifies the catechumens' readiness for the sacraments of initiation and the catechumens, now the elect, express the will to receive these sacraments.

This is a significant time of preparation during the six week season of Lent. It is a time of reflection, intensely centred on conversion, marked by celebration of the scrutinies and presentations and of the preparation rites on Holy Saturday.



Period of Post-Baptismal Catechesis or Mystagogy

This is the time, during the 50 days of Easter season, following the celebration of initiation, when the newly initiated experience being fully part of the Christian community and participating with all the faithful in the Sunday Eucharistic celebration.

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 Office for Worship team - Jenny O'Brien & Lauren Bierer 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 | 8210 8288**



Adelaide Diocesan Assembly 2022

The work of the Diocesan Assembly (which includes parishes, communities, schools, agencies and Diocesan Offices), is intimately connected to the 5th Australian Plenary Council and the 2023 Synod on Synodality. Ultimately, these three streams are connected and are heading in the same direction. They are about assessing the signs of the times and listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit so as to discern the way forward for the Church in the coming years and decades. It is a participation in the ancient practice of synodality.

If you are interested in finding out more about the process, see the Diocesan Assembly website adelaiddiocesanassembly.org or contact your local parish.





Christian Initiation
Australia Network

Webinar:

Ways to get your parish involved in your RCIA process

CIAN presents the first in a series of webinars about running the RCIA process in your parish



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Formation Coordinator
NATIONAL CENTRE
FOR EVANGELISATION



LISA MCKERR
Project Officer Adult Formation
EVANGELISATION BRISBANE



KATHY HORAN
RCIA Coordinator/Liturgy Educator
ARCHDIOCESE OF ADELAIDE



MONDAY 8 AUGUST 2022
7PM – 8:15PM AEDT

Register here: tinyurl.com/rciawebinar