



Reflection

We have begun our Lenten journey and are newly aware of our need to be renewed in our faith, hope and love in the risen Lord as we mark the days with prayer, fasting and alms-giving. We are on the move towards the celebration of the Lord's resurrection at Easter, and the theme of journey is particularly important for those in our communities who are preparing to celebrate the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil. These people celebrated the Rite of Election last weekend and affirmed their desire to become one with the Lord and with us as members of the Catholic Church. The Archbishop, in the name of the Church, accepted and welcomed them as the elect who have now been affirmed publicly and who will be baptised, confirmed and celebrate first communion at Easter time. For those communities blessed with the presence of the elect in their midst, this season of Lent offers all of us a time of renewal and appreciation of our faith. Together with the elect, we journey alongside them as we renew our own faith and our commitment to Christ.

The season of Lent reminds us that this is our acceptable time, a time of conversion of mind and heart to the Lord. It is a reminder of our neediness of God in our lives, and of the importance of deepening our personal relationship in prayer to the Lord. In our communities, we travel together and renew our efforts to live by the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ. As we ponder the gospels during Lent, we develop a renewed appreciation of who Jesus is for us: the question of Jesus to his disciples continues to challenge us: 'but you, who do you say that I am?'

During Lent we celebrate what is known as the Scrutinies and these take place on the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent. The Scrutinies are rites for discernment that call the elect to reflect on their life journey and to do some self-reflection on areas of life that need changing to be in tune with the values of Jesus as expressed in the gospels, as well as strengthening them in their desire to become identified as followers of Jesus.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults describes this aspect of the process in this way:

‘The scrutinies are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the elect; to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good.’ (RCIA, 141)

During these scrutinies, the Church continues its commitment to the elect by asking for strength for them as they enter into the final preparation for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. Each of the scrutinies calls the elect to deep soul-searching and reflection so that they become aware of the presence of sinfulness and wrong-doing in their lives, while at the same time developing a profound appreciation for the healing love that follows repentance.

The gospel for the **first scrutiny** is that of the Samaritan woman at the well, (John 4:5-42), with the promise that **‘those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.’ (Jn.4:13)**

On the 4th Sunday of Lent, the gospel for the second scrutiny is: John 9:1-41 and is the story of the man born blind who encounters Jesus and who desires to be healed; Jesus heals him and declares that **he is the light of the world (:5)** and the message for all of us is that we need to be close to the light; whoever follows Jesus and walks in the light will have the light of life.

On the 5th Sunday of Lent,(John 11:1-45) we are presented with the story of the death of Lazarus and Jesus raising him to life. Jesus says to his followers: **“I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.” (Jn. 11:25-26)**

During the weeks following the scrutinies, the elect are presented with the Creed and the Lord’s prayer, ‘two sacred ancient texts that have always been regarded as expressing the heart of the Church’s faith and prayer.’ (RCIA, 147)

Kathy Horan
RCIA Coodinator

Upcoming Events

CIAN Webinar Monday, March 13th, 7.00 – 8.15 p.m. AEDT

“*Holy Week and Mystagogy*”, presented by Brother Bernard Fonkalsrud & Simon Yeak, both members of the CIAN Executive. Register [HERE](#)

This webinar will be an important resource for you in the implementation of the RCIA in your parishes, and in providing rich information about ways to encourage involvement in the RCIA. Following the webinar, copies of power-point presentations will be made available to those registered to attend.

Mystagogia 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.



Christian Initiation
Australia Network

Webinar:

Holy Week and Mystagogy

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



SIMON YEAK

**Sacramental Life & RCIA
Coordinator**

ARCHDIOCESE OF SYDNEY



**BR BERNARD MARY
FONKALSRUD OFM**

DIOCESE OF BROKEN BAY



MONDAY 13 MARCH 2023
7PM – 8:15PM AEDT

**Register here: [tinyurl.com/CIAN-](https://tinyurl.com/CIAN-Mar2023-webinar)
[Mar2023-webinar](https://tinyurl.com/CIAN-Mar2023-webinar)**

Time line



1st Sunday of Lent
Rite of Election

2nd Sunday of Lent

3rd Sunday of Lent
1st Scrutiny: Explanation of the scrutinies

3rd WEEK of Lent
Presentation of the Creed

This takes place during the week following the first scrutiny. The elect are invited to commit the creed to memory and will recite it publicly prior to professing their faith in accordance with that creed on the day of their Baptism.

4th Sunday of Lent
2nd Scrutiny: Conversion experience

5th Sunday of Lent
3rd Scrutiny: Sharing of experience and open discussions

5th WEEK of Lent
Presentation of the Lord's Prayer

Passion Sunday 2nd April
Explanation of Holy Week liturgies

Good Friday 7th April
Celebration of the Passion

Holy Thursday 6th April
Mass of the Lord's Supper

Holy Saturday 8th April
Retreat

Easter Vigil
Sacrament of Initiation

This is the liturgical rite, usually integrated into the Easter Vigil, by which the elect are initiated through Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist.

Easter Sunday

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 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).

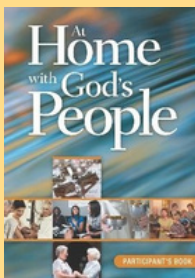
Where to from here?

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

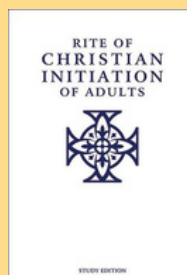
- Contact the RCIA Coordinator - Kathy Horan ph: 8210 8288 or the Office for Worship ph: 8210 8130
- Consider joining with another or other parishes in you region to share an information or inservice session around the topic of the RCIA process, how to get started, sharing good practice and resources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

USEFUL RESOURCES FOR RCIA



'At Home with God's People'
Archdiocese of Brisbane
ahwgp.com



'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.