



*The
beginning of
a journey of
faith*

Reflection

For parishes already under way with the RCIA process, and for those about to begin, this first stage of the RCIA is all about **Inquiry**: a response to the invitation to ‘**come and see.**’ It marks the beginning of a journey to faith within the Catholic community, an awakening of faith and the beginnings of developing a personal relationship with Jesus. A time for questioning, seeking enlightenment, sharing of life experiences, the hopes, the joys and the challenges of living differently in the Catholic community, and coming to know Jesus personally: a rich time of discernment for candidates and RCIA support groups.

During this time of Inquiry, the focus draws inspiration from John’s gospel, where two of John’s disciples heard him say of Jesus “**Look, here is the Lamb of God!**” This prompted the two disciples to follow Jesus. ‘*When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them: ‘What are you looking for?’ they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means teacher) ‘where are you staying?’ He said to them: ‘**Come and see.**’ They **came** and saw where he was staying, and they **remained** with him that day.’ (John 1:35-39)*

From this we understand that Jesus is the one who prompts faith in people and who promises something beyond what their daily lives can offer. The invitation to come and see is about responding to this invitation, taking a risk and being open to developing a personal relationship with the Lord.

This leads to encountering the Jesus of the gospels and developing an understanding of the significance of his life, death and resurrection, but also, and most significantly, it is about entering into a relationship as a disciple with Jesus Christ.

The invitation to 'come and see' takes place within a local parish community. It involves the sharing of personal stories and life experiences, and learning through mutual sharing of how and where we find God each day in the people, places and events of our lives.

When potential candidates for the RCIA come along, part of the invitation to 'come and see' is to become immersed in the life of the community so that in that context they can explore their faith and their developing relationship with Jesus, growing to understand what God, through Jesus Christ, is doing in and through the community.

As Fr. Elio Capra describes in his book entitled '**Come and See**' - **Resources for the pre-Catechumenate**:

These areas need to be explored in this first stage of the RCIA:

Come and see:

- What our community believes;
- How our community lives;
- How our community prays;
- How our community serves and ministers to others. (P.9)

In the Acts of the Apostles, we read this description of **life among the believers**:

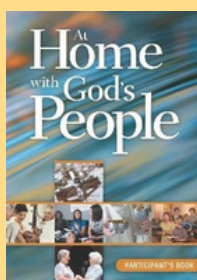
'...the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul.' (Acts 4:32) and..

'All who **believed** were **together** and had **all things in common**; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they **spent much time together in the temple**, they **broke bread** at home and ate their food with **glad and generous hearts, praising God** and having the good will of all the people.' (Acts 2:44-47)

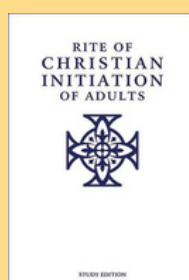
In this supportive and faith-filled environment, inquirers are invited to share their stories and to see how God is at work in their lives. Through this process, they come to an understanding of how their story becomes part of the bigger story of God and those who believe in Jesus Christ: they, too, are on the way to being known as believers, those who follow Jesus.

Kathy Horan
RCIA Coordinator

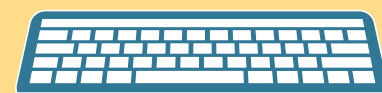
USEFUL RESOURCES FOR RCIA



'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.

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.

National Centre for Evangelisation: nce.catholic.org.au

Catholickenquiry.com

Evangeliseaustralia.com

Pastoral concerns of potential candidates for RCIA

On matters relating to canon law, marriage and divorce, issues that emerge sometimes with people beginning their journey through the RCIA, a first port of call would be to our Marriage Tribunal in the Diocesan Centre.

Sue Rivett, JCL, has a Licence in Canon Law and is a Judge in the Interdiocesan Tribunal of Adelaide (SA and NT), and her work involves advising priests, deacons and lay people who require clarification on matters related to Canon Law.

In addition to her work with the Tribunal over the past 24 years, Sue has worked as a Pastoral Associate for many years, coordinating the parish Sacramental program for children attending State Schools, and has coordinated the RCIA team at Tea Tree gully for some 30 years.

Earlier in the year, Sue met with Diocesan RCIA coordinators via a zoom conference and addressed many issues relating to the above-mentioned issues. That session was recorded and is available to members of the CIAN group.

Sue can be contacted at the Tribunal of the Catholic Church, 1st Floor, Catholic Diocesan Centre, 39 Wakefield St., Adelaide. Phone: 8210 8225

Upcoming Event

Webinar: Challenges in establishing and maintaining a parish RCIA.

Date: Monday, November 14th, 7.00 p.m. AEST. (see flyer below for registration details)

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**





Christian Initiation
Australia Network

Webinar:

Challenges in establishing and maintaining a parish RCIA process

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



KATHY HORAN

**RCIA Coordinator/Liturgy Educator
ARCHDIOCESE OF ADELAIDE**



LISA MCKERR

**Project Officer Adult
Formation EVANGELISATION
BRISBANE**



DR CHRISTINE WOOD

**Director of the Office of
Evangelisation & Catechesis
ARCHDIOCESE OF HOBART**

**MONDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2022
7PM – 8:15PM AEDT**

To register [CLICK HERE](#)

