

Reflection

'Come and See'



We are now in the process of entering into the period of **Evangelisation and Pre-Catechumenate**, having worked through the wonderful stage of the Mystagogia in the Easter season. This is a very important time that signals a new beginning of the process of the **RCIA**, or **Becoming Catholic**.

John's gospel relates the story of John the Baptist signalling to his disciples that Jesus, the Lamb of God, was in their presence. Two of John's disciples then followed Jesus who addressed them in these words:

"What are you looking for?"

They replied, **"Rabbi, where are you staying?"**

He said to them: **"Come and see."**

They **came** and they saw where he was staying, and they **remained** with him that day."

This is a very good illustration of what we are on about in the Evangelisation and Pre-Catechumenate period. It marks a period of time in the process of the RCIA where we can explore who Jesus is for us, bring others along with us to share in the story, and enliven our own response to the gospel. This is a time for inviting others to **'Come and see'** what the Catholic Church is about, how it strives, despite challenges, mistakes and wrong-doing, to be faithful to the Jesus of the gospels. For those of us who are already believers in the way of following Jesus, it is a time to reach out and welcome in any newcomers who wish to join the community.

'Come and See' is an invitation to all who are seeking deeper meaning in life and a personal relationship with Jesus. It is an invitation to **come and see**:

- What the Catholic community believes;
- How the community lives, prays and worships together and follows Jesus;
- How the community ministers to those in need, in the name of Jesus.

The gospel reading of a couple of Sundays ago contained Luke's account of Jesus sending out the 72 disciples, to spread his good news to all who would listen. The 72 represent us: as members of the Catholic Church, we are called to

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mission, and in the words of Pope Francis, to be **missionary disciples**. It is essential that the good news of Jesus be presented to the world in fresh ways. Our mission as disciples is to break open the word for others and to show by our lives that we have been claimed and named by the risen Lord as his dedicated followers.

In our communities, we are called to build the city of God, to turn tears into laughter, sorrow into joy, despair into hope, wrong-doing into forgiveness, in the knowledge that the Lord of our lives has changed the night into day. Being a missionary disciple means reaching out, inviting others to join us, or at least find out what becoming Catholic might be about.

And so, a challenge: **Who will we invite to 'come and see?'** How can our parish be truly a community of missionary disciples?

Kathy Horan
RCIA Coordinator

Websites and Resources of Interest

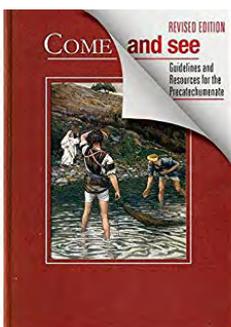


CIAN (Christian Initiation Australia Network)

<https://www.cianetwork.net/>

CIAN is a national network that seeks to support the work of all those engaged with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults in parishes across Australia. The National Executive meets once a year, in a face to face meeting, and on a monthly basis via Zoom conferencing.

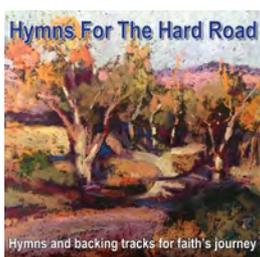
This committee reports to and receives input from the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. From South Australia, Deacon Michael Moore and Kathy Horan are members and have the opportunity to represent the needs of our RCIA coordinators and support people.



Come and See (REVISED EDITION) - Fr Elio Capra SDB **Guidelines and Resources for the Precatechumenate**

Available from Pauline Books and Media (<http://www.paulinebooks.com.au>)

The primary aim of the RCIA process is to invite people to become disciples of Jesus and to form them as his followers. Come and See was first published in 2004 and this new, revised edition adds significant new features to that original text, including expanded internet resources, brand new sessions, a summary of the Steps and Stages of the RCIA Journey.



Hymns for the Hard Road - Fr Paul McCormack MSC **CD or Music Book**

Available from Pauline Books and Media (<http://www.paulinebooks.com.au>)

The hymns in this collection are based on Scriptural texts and may be useful resources for prayer and reflection days for RCIA candidates.

RCIA State Conference - Adelaide 2019

This year in October, from Friday evening, October 11th, until Sunday midday, October 13th, there will be a state conference with a focus on **Becoming Catholic**, via the **RCIA** process. The Conference will be held at the Monastery at Glen Osmond and will provide participants with a good grounding in the RCIA process, with many opportunities to engage with others from a range of different parishes who have been long-time supporters of the RCIA. For those new to the process, or wanting an opportunity to deepen their own understanding of what it means to be Catholic, this Conference will provide participants with a way forward.

The over-arching theme for the conference is:

"It takes a community to nurture a disciple."

With guest speakers:

Fr. Philip Marshall
Sr. Bernadette Kiley O.P.
Fr. Elio Capra SDB
Ms. Sue Rivett

The invitation is to **'Come and see'** what it means to become Catholic.

The reality we wish to explore is that it takes a whole community to nurture disciples, to welcome and support newcomers, and to engage with our parishes.

Fr. Philip Marshall will open the Conference on Friday 11th and will address the group on the Gospel Pathways.

During the conference, we will explore a Scriptural perspective on what it means to be a disciple, in the context of the Catholic community. **Sr. Bernadette Kiley O.P** will facilitate this session.

There will be sessions on each stage of the RCIA process, led by **Fr. Elio Capra SDB**, who lectures at the Catholic Theological College in Melbourne. Fr. Elio has an extensive background in study and experience in working in the area of the RCIA.

Sue Rivett will provide us with an introduction to the intricacies of Canon Law and how to access support when needed.

For whom is this conference intended?

- RCIA contacts and coordinators in parishes; parish priests
- Pastoral Associates and Deacons
- Catechists, APRIMs and RECs:

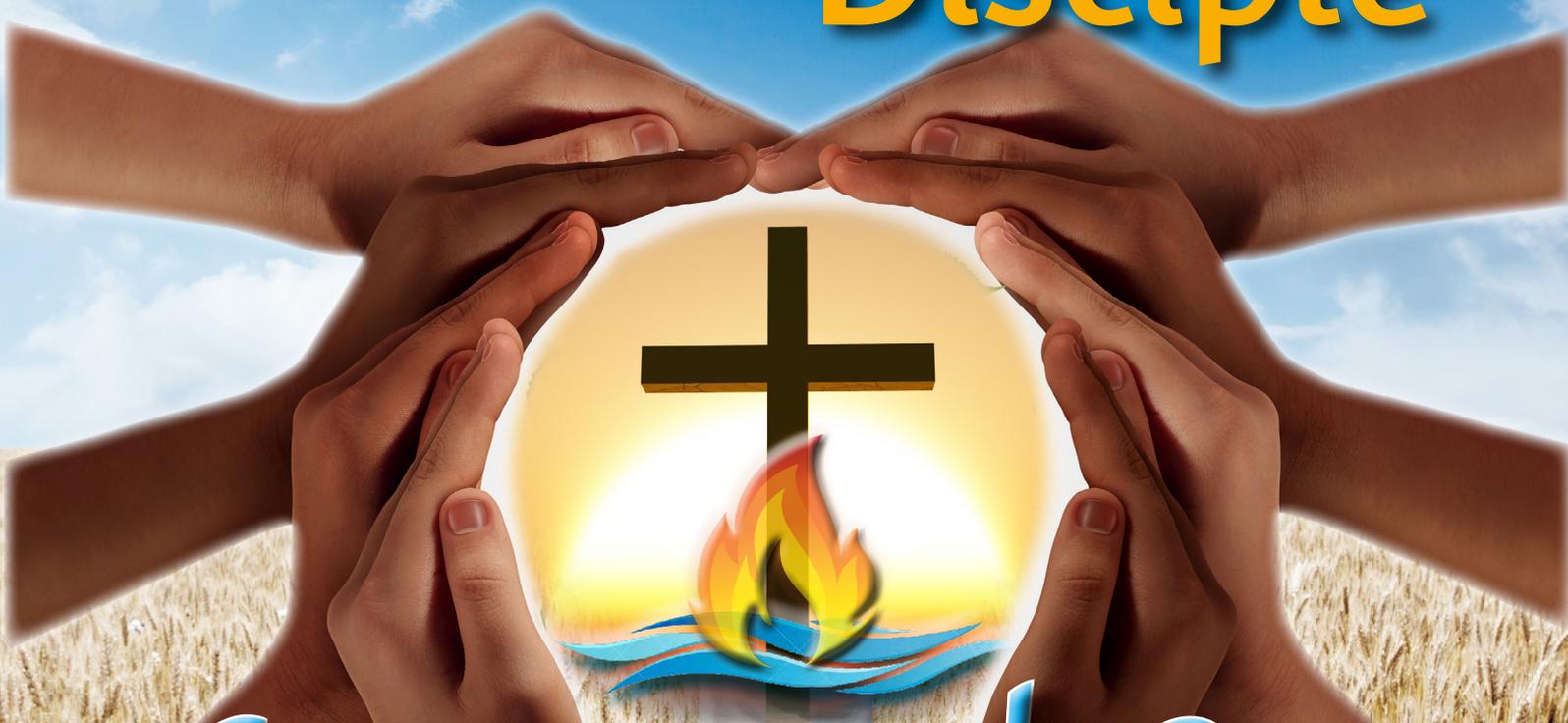
Currently we have more children of catechetical age seeking Baptism, we have expressions of interest from students in our Catholic High schools who may express an interest in Becoming Catholic. Often parents take the opportunity when their children are preparing to celebrate the sacraments to find out more for themselves, often resulting in their wanting also to become Catholic.

- Youth group leaders

For all enquiries about the conference, please contact the Office for Worship or visit our website www.ofw-adelaide.org.au where you will find details about registration. Accommodation packages are available and Earlybird pricing applies until mid September.

If you are interested and know of someone in your parish or area of interest and ministry who may be interested in coming along to the conference, please extend this invitation to them.

It takes a
Community
to nurture a
Disciple



Come and See

RCIA STATE CONFERENCE 2019

11 - 13 October

The Monastery, Glen Osmond

Guest Speakers: Fr Philip Marshall,

Fr Elio Capra SDB, Sr Bernadette Kiley OP

For more info go to www.ofw-adelaide.org.au

Presented by the Adelaide Catholic Archdiocese's Office for Worship