

## Reflection Pentecost



*Image: Pentecost 1732 by Jean II Restout*

We have recently celebrated the wonderful feast of Pentecost, fifty days after the Resurrection of Jesus, and most recently the feast of the Trinity. In the time since the celebration of Easter, we have been caught up in the heady days of acknowledging and enjoying the new life won for us by the Lord, and sharing that new life with others, notably our new Catholics, received formally into the Church at the Easter Vigil. The newness of life belongs not only to these new Catholics, but to all of us who are baptised into the Lord, and these times signal wonderful opportunities for all of us to reflect more deeply on the risen Lord, on our faith and on our commitment as Christians to make a difference in the world.

Pentecost celebrates the release of the Holy Spirit into our lives and our world, renewing the face of the earth and renewing our faith. The readings from the Acts of the Apostles since Easter have documented the activities of the disciples in the early days of the community. With the coming of the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus promised would lead his followers into the truth, the disciples were transformed from fearful, reluctant individuals into bold witnesses who were ready to take on the world and spread the good news. Despite the difficulties they encountered, both within and outside the Christian community, the disciples faced the challenge of being open to all people and cultures who wished to know and follow Jesus. They dealt with their struggles and learned to listen to one another, even as they found their voices and proclaimed their message of good news to the world.

We often marvel at the fact that, as the Pentecost story relates, so many people of so many cultural and language backgrounds were suddenly able to understand what they were hearing, despite the words spoken in a foreign tongue. Maybe there is a contemporary message here for us also, in that the Holy Spirit moves in and through all peoples and cultures and is present in the whole of creation, and our task is to engage with contemporary cultures and concerns in the light of dialogue with the gospel.

In the world of those disciples, post Pentecost, what set them apart and drew others to them was their ability to share with one another and with the poor, praising God and breaking bread together, and welcoming others into their community: these are the qualities that made them stand out.

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The feast of the Trinity, celebrated over this last weekend, is a feast that draws us into the heart of God, where relationships are at the centre of who God is. All the baptised are invited into this intimate relationship with God that is Trinity, and it is here that we are graced with dignity and new life. A famous icon of the trinity shows three figures seated at a table, representing Father, Son and Holy Spirit, with an empty space left for a guest. The early Christians understood this as their space, a place where they could be at one with the Trinity and draw strength from the encounter. The invitation offered to all of us is to come, to be present, to sit at the table and to enjoy the hospitality of this community that is God. And then, the challenge is to go out to the world. Along with our new Catholics, we rejoice in and savour this great feast of the Church, and we give thanks to the God of hospitality for renewing our lives and our commitment to the gospel.

**Kathy Horan**  
RCIA Coordinator

## **2019 RCIA STATE CONFERENCE**

**FRIDAY 11TH TO SUNDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2019**  
**VENUE: THE MONASTERY, GLEN OSMOND**

This year's RCIA Conference in October will have a focus on the parish community as the place where catechumens and candidates are formed in their faith, and the roles and responsibilities relating to all involved in the RCIA will be elaborated on.

There will be a session on how the various rites (Acceptance, election, Sacraments of Initiation) shape the catechumens and the parish community.

The question of RCIA program or process will provide ample opportunities for discussing and sharing both good practice and practical concerns encountered on the journey. Life experience or Content?!

The Mystagogia experience: how do we experience and celebrate this phase of the RCIA process?

- **Fr. Elio Capra SDB**, will facilitate the above sessions on the process of the RCIA.
- **Sr. Bernadette Kiley O.P** will facilitate the first session which will be Scripture-based and will explore some of the dimensions of discipleship.
- **Fr. Philip Marshall** will join us on the Friday evening.

The conference will begin on Friday evening, 11th October, around 5.30 p.m and conclude around midday on Sunday. Further practical details will be published within the next two weeks, along with details for registration.

Please watch the space on our Office for Worship website for updates, and draw this notice to the attention of anyone in your parish who may wish to find out more about the process of Becoming Catholic via the RCIA.

Catechists, RECs, APRIMS and Pastoral Associates are most welcome to attend.



*Adult Confirmation 15 June 2019*

*Back (L-R): Patriek Leduma, Damian Straga, Jasper Jimenez, Alessandro Condina, Vittorio Gambardella  
Front (L-R): Daniella Vardy, Nicole Braybrook, Irene Kinyanjui, Fr Maurice Shinnick*

## Adult Confirmation

On Saturday 15th June at the 6.00 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral, Confirmation was celebrated for 8 adult candidates; 5 of these candidates also celebrated their first Communion. The candidates were:

Alessandro (Alex) Condina  
Daniella Vardy\*  
Vittorio Gambardella  
Jasper Jimenez\*

Nicole Braybrook\*  
Patriek Laduma\*  
Irene Kinyanjui  
Damian Straga\*

*\* denotes First Communion and Confirmation*

The next Adult Confirmation celebration for this year will be held on Saturday, November 9th at the 6.00 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral, and a preparation session for candidates will be held on Saturday, October 26th from 1.00 – 2.30 p.m. in the Cathedral Hall, adjacent to the Cathedral.

Please contact the Office for Worship for further information and registration for this event.



# 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.

In addition to resources you may find on the CIAN web-site, you may find the following links helpful:

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## **National Centre for Evangelisation**

<https://nce.catholic.org.au/>

### **The Bridge Newsletter**

*A resource for Australian Catholics striving to share their faith*

This is a valuable resource that contains news and events, useful resources, information and prayerful reflections and stories shared by people of faith.

<https://nce.catholic.org.au/the-resource-centre/the-bridge-newsletter>

### **The Catholic Enquiry Centre**

*A national agency of the Australian Catholic Bishop's Conference.*

Promoting the beliefs and practices of the Catholic Faith.

<https://www.catholicenquiry.com>

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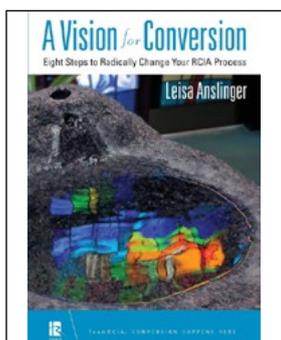


## **RCIA for Secondary Students and Parents:**

<https://www.ofw-adelaide.org.au>

In recent times we have become aware of some students in our Catholic schools who may be interested in becoming Catholic. There are also students in our Catholic primary schools and other schools within parish borders who wish to celebrate the sacraments but who are not yet baptised; in some places, parents of such young people have also expressed interest in becoming Catholic. I would be very happy for anyone in schools who may wish to explore this possibility to make contact with Kathy Horan at the Office for Worship with a view to putting some resources together to support you in your role.

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## **A Vision for Conversion**

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

You said yes to coordinating the RCIA in your parish. You knew it was going to be a big commitment and require a lot of your time. But it turned out to be much bigger and more complex than you ever imagined. The more you learned about those asking to become Catholic, the more you realised that "the way we've always done it" just isn't going to work anymore if you want to form lifelong disciples. Something has to change.

Whether you're an RCIA veteran or just getting started, this book will be your companion and guide as you plan for the change your parish needs to initiate seekers into Christ.