



Image: Sacre Coeur Basilica, Paris, France. By Stephanie LeBlanc on Unsplash

An Extraordinary Year

On many fronts and on a daily basis, we hear proclamations about this being a year like no other, we are all in this together, life has changed unbelievably and we are beset by challenges and uncertainties such that we can feel overwhelmed and uncertain as to how to proceed. In times of such profound change and challenge, it can be difficult to maintain any equilibrium and focus, and to hold on to the important things in life.

One of the effects of Covid 19, of course, has been the delay of celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation with our RCIA candidates, and understandably there has been a sense of loss and disappointment that these celebrations could not happen at the Easter Vigil. However, parishes have, over the past few weeks, been able to resume gathering with and then celebrating the Sacraments of Initiation. What usually follows these celebrations at Easter is a time of wonderful reflection and re-living of the Easter story, along with re-visiting the many life-giving Scriptures of the Easter season. Despite the time lapse, it would still be a wonderful time to work through the Mystagogia or reflection process to bring to heart and mind the awesome reality of these new Catholics now being one with Christ, having been baptised and become a new creation and fully initiated members of the Church. By their Initiation, they have become members of the Church and are now able to share fully in the life of the Church and the Church's mission to evangelise the world.

The language of identity is powerful and evocative. The gospel readings of the Easter season speak of newness of life, union with Jesus and the Father, identifying with Jesus and his mission, understanding Jesus as the way, the truth and the life. There are readings about sheep and shepherds and the close relationship, in the time of Jesus, that existed between the shepherd and his sheep. There is also the imagery of the vine and branches, and bearing fruit. The promise of Jesus to his disciples that he would send the Spirit to be with them, to comfort them, guide them and give them strength, is promised to each one of us also. Running throughout each of these evocative

images and stories is a promise of hope, of truth that sets us free and the pledge that the Spirit of Jesus would lead us all through the confusions, challenges, disappointments and hurts we may face.

After the Ascension when Jesus was no longer physically with his disciples, they were often confused, felt let down, dispirited, lacking clarity and understanding of all that had happened. They were beset by those who might hound them as they hounded Jesus; they lacked the confidence to forge a way through and they were sometimes almost overpowered by a sense of deep loss. Despite this, they kept doing what they could to support one another and to keep the memory of Jesus alive. They gathered together; they praised and thanked God, they broke the bread and remembered Jesus in the breaking of the bread, and they cared for the poor. In these ways, they kept alive the mission and memory of Jesus, as well as the flickering of hope that he would indeed keep his promise to send them the Spirit. The Spirit of God coming upon the apostles at Pentecost marked the beginning of new moments of enlightenment, restored hope, and the courage to step out boldly and proclaim the good news Jesus had shared with them.

In these challenging and uncertain times, we might well return to the inspiration of the gospels with our new Catholics to recover some sense of equilibrium and direction, some comfort and hope, and a greater energy to live as Jesus did: with justice, tenderness and humble companionship with God.

Kathy Horan
RCIA Coordinator

Adult Confirmation

Saturday 17 October, 6pm Mass

St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Adelaide

Adult Confirmation is scheduled to take place at the 6pm Mass at St Francis Xavier's Cathedral on Saturday evening, 17 October. Archbishop Patrick O'Regan will be celebrating the Mass.

The preparation session for candidates will take place on Saturday 10 October from 1.00pm to 2.30pm in the Cathedral Hall premises.

Anyone interested in being confirmed at this Mass are asked to make contact with the Office for Worship. Ph: 8210 8130 or email worship@owadelaide.catholic.org.au



Mass for New Catholics

Sunday, 20th September, 11am Mass

St Francis Xavier's Cathedral, Adelaide

In this extraordinarily different year, the Archdiocesan Mass for New Catholics will be celebrated by Archbishop Patrick O'Regan in St Francis Xavier's Cathedral at the 11am Mass on Sunday 20 September.

The Archbishop warmly invites all of our new Catholics to come and be part of this significant celebration in the life of the Archdiocese, and he looks forward to meeting them, along with those who have supported them on their journey. We realise that by now you have possibly been able to have some parish celebration for these new Catholics, and I hope that you will also promote and support this special Mass.

Due to the Covid 19 restrictions, those intending to attend the Mass will need to book a place as space is limited. Please let the Office for Worship know if you or any of your parishioners will be attending. Names and contact details for all attending must be provided in compliance with government regulation. Feel free to make contact for further clarification.

Mindful that it has been only during the past few weeks that we have been able to move forward with our RCIA candidates and to receive them into the Church through the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation, could you please notify the Office for Worship of the following:

- Names of those who received the Sacraments of Initiation, along with the date and location of the celebration
- Details of candidates for full communion with the Church

As you will appreciate, we need to ensure that our records are completed ahead of time ready for submission to the Vatican. Many thanks for your support in this matter.

Sacraments of
INITIATION