

New Catholics Mass



Deacon Nick Kerr and Archbishop O'Regan with some of the new Catholics who attended the Mass, from left, Serveh Dolatjavid (Aberfoyle Park), Trevor Hetzel (Murray Bridge), Elvis Obedoechi (St Ann's), Andrew Bensch (Murray Bridge), Mariah Turelli (Adelaide), Shauna Thomas (Brighton), Janine Eaton (St Ann's), Moira Napier (St Ann's), Zoe Potts (Henley Beach) and Valerie Scott (Murray Bridge).

Pope Francis has named September as the Season of Creation, a time during which we are invited to contemplate the beauty of all that God has created and to understand that we are deeply in relationship with every part of God's creation. This relationship is beautifully named in St. Francis' hymn where he speaks of all creatures of our God lifting up our voices in praise to the God of life. He speaks of brother sun and sister moon and stars, mother earth, brothers wind and air, sister water and brother fire. Each member of the family of God's creation has its part to play in giving praise and thanks to God. As the psalmist says: 'Ring out your joy to the Lord, O you just; for praise is fitting for loyal hearts.' In this family of creation, humans have a unique role also, as expressed in this prayer:

*"O glorious God,
Your whole creation sings your marvellous work;
May heaven's praise so echo in our hearts
That we may be good stewards of the earth."*

With this in mind, all around us we see signs of burgeoning life in nature: the blossoms are out, the birds are singing their praises to God, the rains are bringing forth new life, and the days are getting longer. There is a new energy abounding as we move cautiously through the COVID-19 experience, while remaining watchful and being respectful of one another; the sun is shining and calls us to the outdoors to experience the beauty of creation. Many people are taking advantage of the warmer weather to get out in the fresh air to exercise, and there is a sense of expectancy and new life and energy that comes with the moving out of the hibernation and cold of winter.

While all of this is happening, there are also calls on each of us to renew and strengthen our relationship with the Lord, with one another and with our common home, mother earth. At this point in time, most parishes have now been able to celebrate the sacraments of initiation with their RCIA candidates and those wishing to be received fully into the Church. As an Archdiocese, we have welcomed our new Catholics at a Mass at the Cathedral, celebrated by Archbishop Pat O'Regan. So there is a sense of moving on and preparing ourselves to begin the process again of welcoming others into our faith community.

Pope Francis has spoken repeatedly of the need for renewal in our Church. He has spoken of the need to be kind and considerate to all people, and to all of creation. He has challenged us to be people of hope who can plan the future, and he invites all of us to bear witness by sharing the good news, becoming evangelisers. In this work of renewal, we are not alone: it is the Lord leading, guiding and empowering us. "See, I am making all things new." (Rev. 21:5)

As we approach the time when many parishes are thinking about the RCIA process in their parishes, it is good for us to remember that all of us are called to be

actively involved in the life and faith of our community. In fact, for the RCIA process to work effectively, we need the whole of the parish to be informed about the process, to hear about how things are going, to pray for candidates and to be welcoming and hospitable to people seeking to become members of the Church. It takes a community to nurture disciples.

As we approach the first phase of the RCIA process, a period of Evangelisation and pre-Catechumenate, it is helpful to remember that this is a time when interested potential candidates are invited to 'come and see' what the Catholic community believes, how the community lives, prays and follows Jesus and how the community continues the mission of Jesus. The essential focus of this period is on enabling candidates to get to know Jesus, to hear and reflect upon the gospels and to develop a personal relationship with Jesus. As we companion those who respond to the invitation to 'come and see,' our own faith and prayer lives are strengthened.

With all of God's creation we give praise and thanks and commit ourselves to supporting and taking an active role in promoting the good news Jesus came to announce.

Kathy Horan
RCIA Coordinator

New Catholics Mass

On Sunday, 20th September, Archbishop Pat O'Regan celebrated the 11.00 a.m. Mass for new Catholics at the Cathedral. During this Mass, those who have recently celebrated the sacraments of initiation or been accepted into full communion with the Church were acknowledge, welcomed and congratulated. They were supported by the presence of family members and representatives of their parish RCIA Team. Those able to attend were:

Serveh Dolatjavid (*Aberfoyle Park*), Trevor Hetzel, Andrew Bensch, Valerie Scott (*Murray Bridge*), Elvis Obedoehi, Janine Eaton, Moira Napier (*St Ann's*), Mariah Turelli (*Adelaide*), Shona Thomas (*Brighton*), Zoe Potts (*Henley Beach*), John Cahill (*Mt Barker / Strathalbyn*) and Mark Ackland (*Morphett Vale*).

In the weeks ahead, several other candidates will also celebrate the sacraments of initiation, and we ask you to keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they approach these celebrations.



RCIA Resources



A great variety of resources are available at this site.

- 'At home with God's People.'
- Liturgia: an on-line liturgy planning resource. (subscription applies)
- Crossroads: RCIA for children of Catechetical age.

<https://www.liturgybrisbane.net.au/>

Books of Interest

RCIA: Study Edition

Available from *The Liturgical Press* Collegeville, Minnesota. This is a very practical handbook containing all the stages of the RCIA, along with explanations and outlines of the various parts of the Rite.

The Parish Companion to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults.

By Terry White

'A Vision for Conversion:'

Eight steps to radically change your RCIA Process.

By Leisa Anslinger

Call and Response: An introduction to the Catholic Faith

By JF Collins

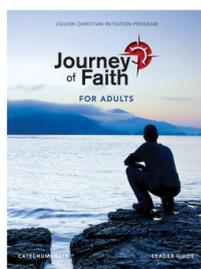
Journey of Faith for Adults

A Ligouri Christian Initiation program which is a Redemptorist Publication from the USA. This resource has a Guide for Leaders and develops resources and practical approaches to working with candidates.

There are Leader guides for Inquiry, Catechumenate, Enlightenment and Mystagoga.

Available from Garratt Publishing

www.garrattpublishing.com.au



Network News is a quarterly bulletin published by the Christian Initiation Network Australia (CIAN) Its purpose is to promote the practice of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults through sharing ideas and challenges.

CIAN membership is open to all who have a commitment to and/ or work with the RCIA in Australia. A range of contemporary resources, membership details and access to additional resources when you take out a membership.

For more details go to:

www.cianetwork.net



Christian Initiation
Australia Network



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

Fr Elio Capra SDB

has written and taught many groups about the RCIA and was a key-note speaker at our local Conference in Adelaide last October. He published a number of books including *Come and See: Guidelines and Resources for the Precatechumenate* and *Called Gifted Sent: The Sacraments of Christian Initiation and the Triduum*.



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Many of you would be familiar with the writings of **Diana Macalintal**, author of 'Your parish is the curriculum; and **Nick Wagner**: author of 'Field Hospital Catechesis.'



Diana and Nick are major contributors to this website which offers a number of resources for RCIA Coordinators and catechumens.

<https://teamrcia.com>