



## *Reflection*

*W*e are soon to begin to enter into the season of Lent, and the theme of journey is one that brings a particular focus to our minds. The rhythm of the year is well under way and we continue to mark important highlights, events, celebrations, remembrances and opportunities. As a Christian community, we consciously take note of the rhythm and seasons of the liturgical year as we call to mind and remember the significance of Jesus, Word of God, become human and showing us the way to God who is constantly with us, calling us forth and sustaining us on the journey. In a real sense we are companions on the journey: not going it alone, but drawing strength and encouragement from one another and especially from the Lord who continues to call us forth. During the season of Lent, the Church presents us with the riches of our Catholic tradition for our contemplation. The story of Jesus unfolds and both challenges and inspires us, calling us into a deeper relationship with the Lord through faith. It is a time of conversion for each one of us as we take stock of our lives, consider them in the light of the gospel and take to mind and heart the values Jesus taught and lived by, with the realisation that we are all in this together, as community.

It is into this community of discipleship in the church that our catechumens and candidates are called and welcomed. These are people who desire to discover the God of Jesus and to learn to live as faithful followers of Jesus within the community and for the world. While those coming fresh to our communities and travelling the Lenten journey with us will be undertaking a more intense period of preparation ahead of celebrating the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil, all of us are given this time of reflection and renewal of our own faith and commitment to the Lord.

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The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and the distribution of the ashes, with the reminder that we are dust and will return to dust – a sobering thought and one that keeps us grounded! For forty days, we journey with Jesus as we seek to take stock of our lives, to re-evaluate our priorities and our relationships and to find new and life-giving ways of responding to the Lord we experience in prayer and in the people we encounter daily. During Lent, we have an opportunity to find new ways of being outgoing to others, to pray and deepen our faith, to remember and respond to those in greater need, and to keep our focus on the Lord whose passion, death and Resurrection we will commemorate at the end of Lent.

**Kathy Horan**  
RCIA Coordinator

## Important dates for RCIA groups

### *Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens:*

By now, many parishes will have welcomed into their parish community those who have expressed a desire to become Catholic, and this is acknowledged and recognised as an important moment in the journey of faith and conversion. These people are now seeking to enter more fully and formally into the order of Catechumens.

**Note:** If this Rite of Acceptance has not yet happened, (for a variety of reasons, such as the presence of Covid in the community, holiday breaks etc) it would be important to celebrate this Rite as soon as possible. There is an outline of this Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens in the RCIA book, and for your convenience, a copy of the Rite can be downloaded via <https://www.ofw-adelaide.org.au/initiation-resources.html>

### *Ash Wednesday: Wednesday, 2nd March*

The beginning of the Lenten season and a time of personal and community renewal. During this period, our catechumens, having been welcomed into the community and accepted as candidates for the RCIA, now enter into an extended time of catechesis, pastoral formation and guidance as they become more familiar with the life and teachings of the Church. Most importantly, they seek to explore the process of conversion to Christ, a process that will continue through life for each member of the community. Developing a personal relationship to Christ through prayer is part of this process of conversion and coming to faith.

### *First Sunday of Lent: Sunday, 6th March, 2.30 p.m.*

#### **The Rite of Election for Catechumens**

This takes place at the Cathedral and our Archbishop, Patrick O'Regan, will preside.

This step in the RCIA process is called 'election.' It affirms the expressed intention of the catechumens to prepare for the sacraments of initiation at Easter, and, on the basis of the witness of sponsors, catechists and parish priest, it signals the Church's election or choice in accepting the catechumens as ready to celebrate the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil.

## Your Assistance Please

### **Names of RCIA Candidates**

As soon as it is possible for parish RCIA coordinator/parish priest to do so, could you please notify me of the names of your RCIA candidates and those preparing to be received into full communion with the Church at Easter?

### **Numbers for Rite of Election**

We need to know numbers attending the Rite of Election on Sunday 6th March. Sponsors and other parish representatives and supporters of the RCIA are encouraged to attend. The actual Rite of Election is scheduled for 2.30 p.m. and the Archbishop would like the opportunity to meet with the group in the Cathedral hall prior to this. Further details of this gathering will be circulated closer to the event.

Please let us know as soon as possible the names of candidates, sponsors and other parish representatives who will be attending on the day.

You can do this by email to: [khoran@adelaidecatholic.org.au](mailto:khoran@adelaidecatholic.org.au) or phoning: 8210 8288, or emailing [aappleby@adelaide.catholic.org.au](mailto:aappleby@adelaide.catholic.org.au)



### *Period of Purification and Enlightenment:*

This corresponds with the season of Lent and is a time of more intense spiritual preparation as catechumens seek enlightenment and a deeper knowledge of and relationship with Christ. During this period of the RCIA process, there are some specific rites that take place:

#### **The Scrutinies**

These are rites that are solemnly celebrated on the **3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent**, during Mass. The Scrutinies are designed to provide opportunities for discerning, uncovering and healing all that is weak, defective, or sinful in the hearts of the 'elect.' The whole community gathered for the Sunday Eucharist also benefits from this rite.

The rite of exorcism is a rite that calls on God to set the 'elect' free from sin and weakness and to sustain them in their quest for deeper enlightenment and conversion of mind and heart.

#### **Presentations**

Following the celebration of the Scrutinies, the Presentations take place at a gathering of the catechumens and their sponsors during the week, over a couple of weeks. After the first Scrutiny, the 'elect' are presented with the **Creed**, and they are urged to commit it to memory.

The second Presentation is the **Lord's Prayer** and takes place during the week following the third Scrutiny.

Throughout Lent and the celebration of the events of Holy Week, the whole community focuses on deepening commitment to Christ, renewing its faith and seeking deeper conversion.

*The third step in the RCIA process is the celebration of the sacraments of initiation, and this takes place at the Easter Vigil.*

This is the liturgical rite through which catechumens are initiated into the Catholic Church and receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Following the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord on Easter Sunday, we enter into a period of several weeks in the Easter season. This time is known as '**Mystagogia**' a time for further reflection and savouring the wonderful Easter mysteries. It is a time for all to appreciate what it means to be identified with Christ and through our Baptism to become missionary disciples, sharing in the mission of Jesus to the world. For the newly baptised, this is a time of being able to participate fully in the Sunday Eucharistic celebration of the community. It is also a time for discerning how to be an active member of the community, with the guidance, support and witness of the whole community.

***Mystagogia Mass: Sunday 22 May 2022, 11.00am***

This is a Mass, held at the **Cathedral on 22 May at 11am with Archbishop O'Regan presiding**, is an opportunity for all those initiated into the Church at Easter to come together and celebrate with the Archdiocesan community.

## HOLY WEEK

**Sunday, 10th April  
Palm Sunday:**

**Thursday, 14th April:  
Holy Thursday**

**Friday, 15th April:  
Good Friday**

**Saturday, 16th April:  
Holy Saturday**

**Sunday, 17th April:  
Easter Sunday.**

### DIARY DATES FOR 2022

#### **Rite of Election**

**Sunday 6 March, 2.30pm**  
St Francis Xavier's Cathedral

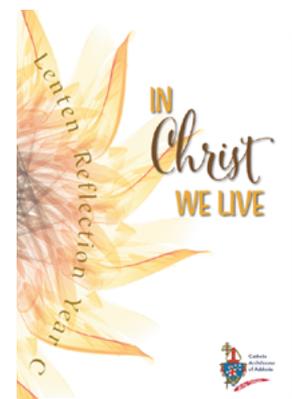
#### **Mystagogia Mass**

**Sunday 22 May, 11.00am**  
St Francis Xavier's Cathedral

#### **Adult Confirmation**

**Saturday 3 September, 6.00pm**  
St Francis Xavier's Cathedral

### 2022 Lenten Reflection Booklet



Available in parishes from 18 February  
or online ofw-adelaide.org.au

