



*... a joyful
hope that
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Reflection

When we celebrate the feast of Christ the King at the end of November, we know that this signifies the end of the current liturgical year and signals that the season of Advent is almost upon us. Advent is a time and space that calls us to prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of the coming of the Lord as the Christ-child, some 2000 years ago, and the continued waiting for the coming of Christ in glory at the end of time. This is a season of anticipation, hope and expectation that God's promises will be fulfilled, and that Jesus' mission of announcing the Reign of God in our midst will yield its fruit in us as missionary disciples of Jesus.

At the heart of Jesus' mission is his intimate relationship with God. Jesus came among human-kind as a vulnerable, dependent infant, human like us. As Jesus grew and developed within his family and religious community, he grew in understanding of his mission to the world, to be the human face of God and to show us what God is like.

The God of Jesus Christ is for us a God of **tenderness and compassion**, of **mercy and love**, of **healing and forgiveness** – a far cry from images and experiences of ruling lords and despots of the time. For Jesus, God is a God who desires to be in close relationship with us, who seeks us out when we are lost, who restores us when we feel abandoned, and who proposes a way of life that promotes the dignity and well-being of all, especially the marginalized, most vulnerable and alienated.

Fellowship, hospitality and living in peace and harmony are hallmarks of the Reign of God into which we have been invited. Jesus taught that the Reign of God is open to all who will believe, and being part of God's Reign will require a willingness to become involved, to be of service, and to become evangelisers of the good news of Jesus and the Reign of God. On a daily basis, as baptized members of the Church, all of us are called to deepen our relationship with the Lord and to share the great good news we have received with others. At this time, in particular, we are welcoming inquirers into our parish communities. They wish to know about Jesus and to come to a deep personal relationship with Jesus. Our role is to be hospitable and welcoming, and ready to share our faith with those who wish to **'come and See.'**

Throughout the season of Advent, many spiritual gems will be offered to us for our reflection and preparation as we look forward to celebrating Christmas. These same messages and inspirations were heard by Jesus as he grew in knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the God who comes close: **'Stay awake!'**, **'Come, Lord Jesus,'** **'Walk in the light of the Lord!'** **'Rejoice in the Lord always,'** **'You, Lord, are close, and all your ways are truth.'**

The wisdom and hope expressed in these mantras from Scripture can lead us in the way of renewal of our faith, our commitment to the Lord and service to the community and the world during this time of preparation.

As we prepare ourselves and our communities to get ready for the celebration of the birth of the Christ-child at Christmas, may we be mindful of journeying with others who wish to become part of our Church. May we continue to love and serve our God with joyful and generous hearts, and may we all find the peace that only a God of tenderness and mercy can provide. In a world weary of illness, covid, war, destruction and many forms of violence, we pray that we will find traces of the Reign of God in our midst and be of one mind and heart as we celebrate with joy the festive season.

Kathy Horan
RCIA Coordinator

... the Reign of God in our midst will yield its fruit in us as missionary disciples of Jesus.



Upcoming Event

The first webinar for next year to be facilitated by the Christian Initiation Australia Network will be held on Monday, March 13th, 7.00 – 8.15 p.m. AEDT

The topic will be:

“Holy Week and Mystagogy” and will be presented by Brother Bernard Fonkalsrud and Simon Yeak, both members of the CIAN Executive.

Further details and registration will be provided early in the new year.

Following each of the webinars, copies of power-point presentations will be made available to those registered to attend.

Check out the CIAN website for information relating to membership of CIAN, which enables access to a range of testimonials and other resources suitable for working with parish groups, candidates and all interested in the RCIA.

Online Resources

Christian Initiation of Adults Network: ciannetwork.net

On this national website you will find the following resources that would be useful for RCIA groups/formation:

- Resources and tools
- RCIA for children
- Testimonials
- Network news

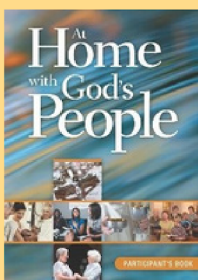
If you are not a member of this network, registration details and processes are available online at the above address. Membership allows access to a range of resources, articles, webinars etc.

National Centre for Evangelisation: nce.catholic.org.au

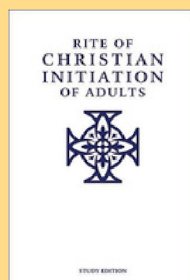
Catholickenquiry.com

Evangeliseaustralia.com

USEFUL RESOURCES FOR RCIA



'At Home with God's People'
Archdiocese of Brisbane
afl.fl@bne.catholic.net.au



'Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults' -Study Edition
www.stpauls.com.au



TeamRCIA Website
Website: <https://teamrcia.com>
Note: Some areas of this website require a paid membership.



Rite of Election

Sunday 26th February, 2:30pm
St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Adelaide

All candidates, parish supporters and sponsors are invited to attend this Rite of Election at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral on the 1st Sunday of Lent. Prior to this, Archbishop Patrick O'Regan would like to meet with all candidates in the Cathedral Hall from 1.30 p.m. onward. Further details will be sent out closer to the time.



Mystagogy Mass

Sunday 21st May, 11:00am
St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Adelaide

This Mass acknowledges, welcomes and celebrates our new Catholics



Adult Confirmation

Saturday 5th August, 6:00pm
St Francis Xavier Cathedral, Adelaide

For those adults who have been baptised but not yet confirmed. There will be two preparation sessions for the candidates ahead of the Confirmation ceremony. Details and dates for those sessions will be announced closer to the time.



join us

Pastoral concerns of potential candidates for RCIA

On matters relating to canon law, marriage and divorce, issues that emerge sometimes with people beginning their journey through the RCIA, a first port of call would be to our Marriage Tribunal in the Diocesan Centre.

Sue Rivett, JCL, has a Licence in Canon Law and is a Judge in the Interdiocesan Tribunal of Adelaide (SA and NT), and her work involves advising priests, deacons and lay people who require clarification on matters related to Canon Law.

In addition to her work with the Tribunal over the past 24 years, Sue has worked as a Pastoral Associate for many years, coordinating the parish Sacramental program for children attending State Schools, and has coordinated the RCIA team at Tea Tree gully for some 30 years.

Earlier in the year, Sue met with Diocesan RCIA coordinators via a zoom conference and addressed many issues relating to the above-mentioned issues. That session was recorded and is available to members of the CIAN group.

Sue can be contacted at the Tribunal of the Catholic Church, 1st Floor, Catholic Diocesan Centre, 39 Wakefield St., Adelaide. Phone: 8210 8225

Where to from here?

If you need support in your parish to set up a team or to re-group for the coming year, please consider the following:

- Contact the RCIA Coordinator - Kathy Horan ph: 8210 8288 or the Office for Worship ph: 8210 8130
- Consider joining with another or other parishes in you region to share an information or inservice session around the topic of the RCIA process, how to get started, sharing good practice and resources etc.
- Think about ways of raising the profile of the RCIA process in your parish

For any other enquiries about how to get started, or how to renew the RCIA process in your parish, please contact: **Kathy Horan | khoran@adelaide.catholic.org.au | 8210 8288**