

WHAT IS THE RCIA?

The **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)** is a process for preparing and welcoming new and returning members into the Catholic Church.

A Community Journey - that leads to a transformation of mind and spirit through sharing prayer and worship with the church community.

A Personal Journey - which allows enquirers to examine their own relationship with God in an environment of Catholics sharing their own living faith and guided by the Gospel values.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The process of becoming a Catholic Christian is a journey in faith made in the company of other enquirers, catechists, sponsors and clergy.

The enquirer journeys through up to four periods of formation involving discussion and sharing of the Gospel stories of Jesus Christ and what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Enquirers are welcome and are free to journey for as long as they wish.

HOW DO I START?

For more information, contact the parish office by phone on 6258 1563 or email at charnwood@cg.org.au.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

It will depend on where you are starting from. No pressure is exerted on anyone to become Catholic. The R.C.I.A. team will respect the uniqueness of each person and you will only take each step when you are personally ready for it.

WHAT ARE THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION?

These are the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion, received by unbaptised people as they become members of the Catholic Church.

The Catholic Church recognises the Baptism received by Christians from a number of other Christian Churches. In these cases, the people entering the Catholic Church are welcomed into full Communion with the Catholic Church and would receive the sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion.

WHO ARE CATECHISTS?

They are practicing Catholics who offer special support and encouragement by walking the journey with the enquirer and providing a personal link between the candidate and the Church community.

WHO ARE SPONSORS?

They are practicing Catholics who offer special support and encouragement by walking the journey with the enquirer and providing a personal link between the enquirer and the Church community. The enquirer becomes a candidate for reception into the Church with the support of a sponsor.

HELPERS ON THE WAY

Sponsors, Catechists and other team members work to establish a friendly and sincere atmosphere to help candidates overcome early uncertainties.

The parish priest is available for personal, spiritual, or pastoral advice if requested.

The whole parish community is encouraged to offer support through prayer and friendly interest.

BEEN AWAY FROM THE CHURCH FOR A WHILE?

This might be the perfect way of rebooting your personal faith and your relationship with the local Church. As an already baptised Catholic you will be welcomed and gently encouraged to reconnect with your Church but you would not need to follow the whole RCIA programme. We offer individual support as each unique enquirer determines. There is no “one size fits all”.

CONTACT:

If you are interested in having a conversation about RCIA or returning home to your Church, please contact:

Fr Gerard McCormick— our **Parish Pastor** in person or through the parish office on 6258 1563 or charnwood@cg.org.au

You can also speak with any regular parishioner for further direction, or complete and return the following slip to the Parish Office.

By completing this slip you are not under any contract or obligation. Your details remain confidential in our Office and you will not be contacted unless requested.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

THE JOURNEY

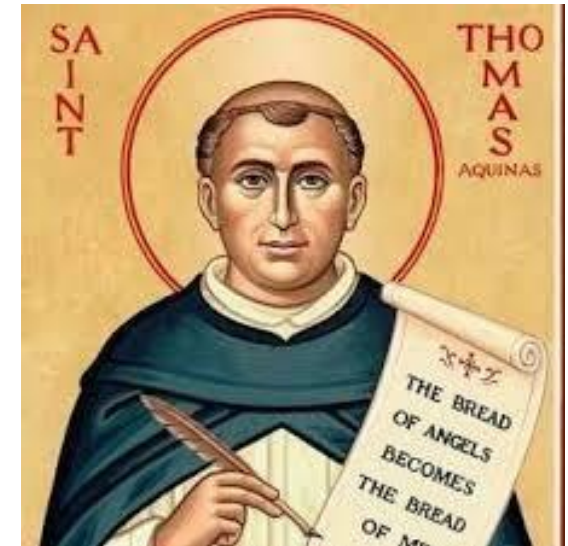
1. Initial enquiry about the Catholic faith.
2. A period of learning about the Catholic faith and practicing living the life of a Catholic Christian.
3. Lent – a time of preparation for receiving the Sacraments of Initiation.
4. Easter – Reception of the Sacraments of Initiation
5. Post-Easter – a period of reflection with the community on your initiation experience.

St Thomas Aquinas Parish

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BECOMING CATHOLIC (RCIA)

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



We welcome all who
make this journey of
faith into the Catholic
community of
Charnwood