

RCIA

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process by which the Church responds to the request of people to, initially, know more about the Catholic faith and then perhaps wish to become members of the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of Initiation i.e. Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion.

Some people may have already been baptised in another tradition, for instance Church of England, Baptist or Methodist etc. For them it would be a request for Conversion to the Catholic faith through Confirmation and Holy Communion.

For others, who have already been baptised as Catholic but have not received the sacraments of Confirmation or Holy Communion, it would mean completing the process of initiation into full union with the Catholic Church.

Whatever their condition, the Church is ready and willing to respond to the call of God in people's lives and to help them move towards becoming full adult members of the Catholic Church.

Obviously these things require preparation and in the parish here in Ponders End we offer an ongoing process. We have a RCIA group that meets together on a regular weekly basis – usually a Monday from 7.30pm to 9.00pm in the parish hall. It is a very informal group and in the process of preparation we would encourage discussion and sharing rather than formal teaching – although, obviously, an amount of input about Catholic teaching is important.

We generally begin preparation in September and our aim is to move towards the Easter Vigil of the following year when people would receive the

Sacraments. The process is marked by several services in the church at a Sunday Mass when the Community would be introduced to the Candidates, and then at the beginning of Lent there would be a visit to Westminster Cathedral to meet with the Archbishop. The journey through the programme is a happy and an enjoyable one – sometimes uplifting – where we learn to pray together and come closer to God.

We are also ready to help people who would like their relationship brought into line with Catholic teaching. So if you have only been married in a Register Office, if you have been divorced and maybe you would like to remarry, or if you have any other questions relating to marriage/relationships then we would point you in the right direction.

We are here to help and would like to offer anyone who is interested the opportunity to come along to one of our open evenings to talk through any of the things mentioned, or in fact any other questions relating to the Catholic faith. There are no strings attached and if afterwards you decide that it is not for you then that's fine.

If you have a friend who you think might be interested then please pass this information on to them. Thank you.

Our enquiry time for a quick chat is:

Saturday 3rd July at 3.30pm

These will be very informal and will take place in the church which is in Nags Head Road on the corner of Alexander Road. Just come along – you will be very welcome.

Would you please complete the following questions? If you do not wish to then that is all right - just put your name etc. and just come to one of the meetings.

Just tick any of the following which are appropriate:

- I am not a Catholic but I have been Baptised
- I am not a Catholic and I have not been Baptised
- I am a Baptised Catholic but have not been Confirmed and/or received Communion
- I am married to a Catholic
- I am married but not to a Catholic
- I have never been married
- I am not married but have a partner
- I was married in a Register Office but not in church
- I am presently separated
- I am divorced and remarried
- I am divorced but not remarried

Is there any other information you would like to give about yourself?

Please give your name, address and telephone number.

Would you please return the form to us or simply bring it along to either of the meetings and hand it in when you arrive. Thank you.

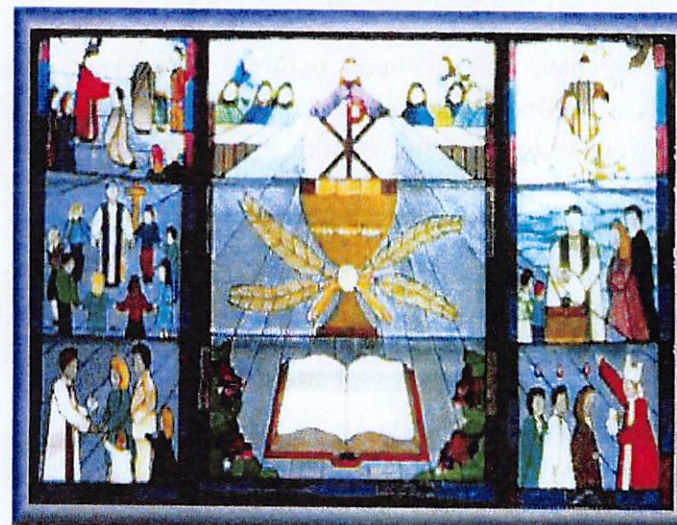
I look forward to meeting you – Fr John

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Do you want to know more about the Catholic faith?

Come and see!



*When Jesus saw the two disciples following Him,
He turned to them and said: "What are you looking for?"
They said to Him: "Rabbi, where do you live?"
And He said to them: "Come and see,"
and they stayed with Him that day. (John 1:38-39)*

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

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