

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults in Emmanuel Community

Information for those seeking to become Catholic,
or to complete their full initiation into the Catholic Church



Outline for 2024 Journey

Download Enrolment Form
at ec.org.au/sacraments



Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

“Our hearts are restless, O Lord, until they rest in you.” St Augustine

The journey towards Christian Initiation is for men and women who, having experienced the movement of the Spirit in their hearts, are now seeking to live a Christian life within the Catholic community. Each person has a different background and a particular experience with Christianity.

For Adults, the RCIA is best described as a journey of faith that passes through a number of different phases and focuses on conversion of heart and mind to Christ. It is a gradual journey tailored to the needs of the individual.

Download Enrolment Forms at www.ec.org.au/sacraments.

Stages to Becoming Catholic

The RCIA process follows four stages of initiation.

Inquiry Period

The Period of Evangelisation and Pre-catechumenate or Inquiry is the first stage of the journey. It is a time to explore and question your faith, uncover the basic message of the Gospel and begin to discern how to live this in your life.

It is a time of discovery with no fixed structure or duration. This is described this as a time for inquiry and introduction to the gospel values; an opportunity for the beginnings of faith.

Catechumenate Period

The Period of the Catechumenate is a time for you to deepen your understanding of the Catholic faith and relationship with Jesus. It is a time for suitable pastoral formation and guidance. It can be thought of as an apprenticeship.

At the heart of this period is conversion of heart, the conversion to Jesus Christ.

Period of Purification

The period of Purification and Enlightenment is a time for reflection and prayer and a time to develop a deeper relationship with Jesus. This is a period of more intense spiritual preparation, consisting more in interior reflection than catechetical instruction. It often occurs in the Church during the season of Lent before Easter.

Post Baptismal Period or Mystagogy

This is a time when the newly baptised (‘neophytes’) begin their lifelong commitment to living a Christian life. It marks a shift from learning about faith to living faith in everyday life and a shift from looking within to looking outside, to the community.

Information taken from www.brisbanecatholic.org.au/life/rite-of-christian-initiation-of-adults

Timeline for RCIA Journey 2024

Enquiry Period	
Engagement with the Church community and opportunities to serve. Personal connection with RCIA Team, including regarding any potential obstacles.	
Sunday 3rd March after 10:30am Mass	RCIA Orientation <i>(in 2024 this will be combined with Session 1)</i> Meet each other, pray together and outline the path forward. Submit Enrolment form.
Catechumenate Period	
<i>Module 1:</i>	<i>Father, Son & Spirit / The Bible / Jesus</i>
Sunday 3rd March after 10:30am Mass	RCIA Session #1 Meet for prayer and input on selected topic.
Sunday 10th March during 10:30am Mass	Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens or Rite of Welcome of Baptised Candidates
<i>Module 2:</i>	<i>Sacraments of Initiation / The Mass</i>
Sunday 17th March after 10:30am Mass	RCIA Session #2 Meet for prayer and input on selected topic.
<i>Holy Week & Easter</i> <i>24th – 31st March</i>	<i>The Catholic Church celebrates some key ceremonies during this time which we'll let you know about.</i> <i>Plus Emmanuel has Stations of the Cross & Easter Mass.</i>
Sunday 7th April after 10:30am Mass	RCIA Session #3 Meet for prayer and input on selected topic.
<i>Module 3:</i>	<i>Prayer / Mary & the Saints / The Christian Life / Mission</i>
Sunday 21st April after 10:30am Mass	RCIA Session #4 Meet for prayer and input on selected topic.
Sunday 5th May after 10:30am Mass	RCIA Session #5 Meet for prayer and input on selected topic.
Period of Purification	
Sunday 5th May During 10:30am Mass	Rite of Election
Date & time tbc	Time of Retreat incl Sacrament of Reconciliation (for those baptised)
Sunday 26th May during 10:30am Mass	Full initiation into the Church Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation & First Communion
Mystagogy (Post Baptismal Period)	
Sunday 23rd June <i>tbc</i> after 10:30am Mass	RCIA Get-Together Meet to catch up and share about your experience.