

Glen's story



Fifteen months ago, I made a decision that has changed my life. I attended a Catholic Mass. The next week, I was able to help change someone else's life. I brought my daughter.

My name is Glen Brew and my daughter Ella and I have recently been formally welcomed into the Catholic faith. I am forty years old and Ella is nine and we were initiated through the Cathedral parishes' R.C.I.A. program.

For Ella, the journey in faith has come very naturally. With all the innocence of a child, she has never questioned the idea of God in her life and I like to think that this is indicative that God's light shines brightly within all children. Ella is by nature a lovely, compassionate and happy person who makes parenting very easy and due to her nature, her commitment to the Catholic ethos is both instinctive and inspiring.

For me, the path to faith has been much more the road less traveled. Growing up in the central Queensland town of Gladstone, I became somewhat of an unruly teenager and was sent to the St. Peter Chanel College for some much needed 'moral direction'. The influence and example of the Brothers and Sisters planted a seed of faith and I hold particularly fond memories of Sister Maria, my art teacher. In her boundless compassion, patience and empathy, she encouraged me to consider the bigger questions of life. After leaving the school, I continued on from her support and developed a keen interest in philosophy and ethics.

From this, my upbringing as an atheist was challenged by the core argument of atheism itself. "There is no God, as His existence cannot be proven". Given that atheists cannot also disprove the existence of God, it struck me that any rational atheist is compelled to be at least, agnostic and any further belief in atheism after this realisation can only be fueled by other agendas. Other indicators, such as the obvious design of the world and the innate idea of God in humankind of any time or place, along with Ella's influence, led to my awakening to the subtle way God encourages us to faith by His actions. My subsequent decision to become a Catholic Christian was based on my belief that Catholic virtues were most consistent with my secular values.

The ongoing experience of spiritual growth, liturgical instruction and theological education through the R.C.I.A. program in the very capable hands of our most wonderful catechist, sponsor and Godmother Ms. Maria Walker, continues to be a wellspring for Ella and me. The process of initiation has shepherded us into attributing greater significance to the sacraments and deepened not only our faith, but our bond as father and daughter.

Our journeys' have made both Ella and I so very grateful that so many people have heard and acted on the call to exemplify God's love through vocation. Be they clergy or cleaner, this selflessness born of the depth of their own faith allows people like Ella and I to also hear the Word and experience the joy that is to know God.