

Stage 1: Period of Inquiry (Precatechumenate)

A time for enquiry and introduction to the Church. Enquirers are welcomed by people from the Catholic community, in an informal setting, where they are invited to share their experiences, listen to others and ask any questions they may have.

Step1: Rite of Acceptance

In a rite that takes place in the parish community, the enquirer expresses their intention to respond to God's call, while the community supports them.

They are now known as catechumens.

Stage 2: Period of the Catechumenate

This is the time for nurturing and growth of faith. It is a period of ongoing formation in the Christian way of life. Catechumens are supported along the way by a sponsor.

Step2: Rite of Election

The Archbishop presides over this rite in which the names of the catechumens are inscribed in the "Book of the Elect".

The elect, as they are now known, express their will to receive the Sacraments of Initiation and their godparents testify to their readiness to proceed.



Stage 3: Period of

Purification & Enlightenment

Usually occurring during the season of Lent, this is a time of more intense spiritual preparation, where in the weeks leading up to their initiation during the Easter Vigil, the elect come to know Jesus more fully, through prayer, reflection and liturgical rites.

Step 3: Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation

The elect are initiated by receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

This usually occurs at the celebration of the Easter Vigil.



Stage 4: Period of Mystagogy

Following their initiation at the Easter Vigil, the newly baptised experience being fully a part of the Catholic Church, by exploring the meaning of the Sacraments they have received, and by participation with all the faithful each Sunday.

Welcome!

The *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)* is the process by which interested people become members of the Catholic Church.

It's origins date back to the beginning of Christianity.

The process consists of a number of *stages in which the enquirer's relationship with God develops* and they become familiar with the prayer life of the Church, supported by members of the parish community; and *steps which celebrate the transition between these stages*. The process culminates in the welcoming into the Church through the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation:

Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

A summary of the steps and stages involved is included in this brochure.

If you are interested in knowing more about the becoming a Catholic Christian, you are encouraged to contact your local Catholic Parish.



How do I get in touch with my local Parish community?

There are a number of ways you can make contact with your local community:

- Contact the Parish Priest - look up your local church under "Catholic Church" in the white pages.
- Speak to a Catholic friend or relative. Ask them to take you along to a Sunday Mass.
- Contact the Diocesan *RCIA & Sacraments of Initiation Coordinator*.

If you have any questions, or require assistance in contacting your local parish community, please contact:

RCIA & Sacraments of Initiation
Coordinator

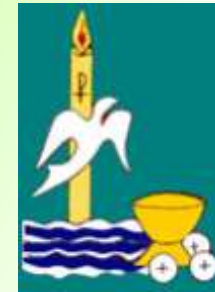
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Office of Church Life & Mission



The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults



The Process of becoming a
Catholic Christian