

# Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)



**RCIA**

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION  
OF ADULTS

**St Mary of the Cross,  
Mordialloc and  
Aspendale**

## RCIA Program

We invite you to read the following information which will help answer some questions you may have about our RCIA Program.

### What is RCIA?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults dates back to 1972 and was prepared by the Vatican Council. It was decided at the time that the process of receiving the Sacraments and initiating adults into the Catholic Faith should be adapted to be more in line with the contemporary Church.

The RCIA is a four- step process, designed to welcome new members into the Church and it takes place within parish life.

### What is the process?

The RCIA Program commences in August each year and concludes with baptism at Easter (March/April) the following year. The four steps in the process are:

- **The Rite of Acceptance** - The first liturgical rite in which enquirers express and the Church accepts their intention to respond to God's call and follow the way of Jesus Christ.
  - **The Rite of Election** -The liturgical rite during which the Church formally approves the catechumen's readiness for the Sacraments of Initiation.
  - **Rite of the Sacraments of Initiation** - This is the most important of all transitional Rites because it is when the elect are fully incorporated into Christ and the Church by Baptism, Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.
  - **The Neophyte Year** - Mystagogy or post-baptismal catechesis is an important period of time for the newly initiated to reflect on their Easter experience. \*neophyte = "newly planted," the first year of being Catholic
- Source: Catechumenate Office Archdiocese of Sydney**

### More information

**If you are an adult and you are thinking of becoming a Catholic, or you are simply curious to know more, please contact our Pastoral Associate Bernadette Carr who will be very happy to have a chat to you. Please contact Bernadette at 03 9580 7981 or [Bernadette.Carr@cam.org.au](mailto:Bernadette.Carr@cam.org.au)**