

St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth's Parish

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RCIA PROGRAMME: 2021/2022

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

APPLICATION FORM

[For non-Catholics and un-Confirmed adult Catholics]

We are all on a *journey of faith* that is unique and personal, and yet a journey that we know is greatly enriched when we are able to come together and share with others.

- Maybe you are a non-Catholic Christian who has been accompanying your family to a Catholic Church and now feel drawn to become part of this community of faith.
- Maybe your “roots” are in another religion, or in none.
- Maybe you are a Baptised Catholic but never received, as a young person, the Sacrament of Confirmation.

This Programme is for all in these groups who wish to explore their faith, as adults, with a view to possibly becoming a Baptised and Confirmed member of the Catholic Church next Easter (April 16th, 2022).

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM CLEARLY IN BLOCK CAPITALS AND RETURN TO THE PARISH OFFICE BY SUNDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2021. YOU WILL THEN BE CONTACTED WITH FURTHER DETAILS OF THE PROGRAMME.

Full name:

Name you would like to be known by during sessions

Date of Birth:

Marital Status: **If married, is this your first marriage?**

Have you been Baptised? Yes or No

If Yes, please give Church of Baptism and Date:

.....
(Please provide a photocopy of Baptism Certificate)

Contact details: Address:
.....

Home telephone no. **Mobile**

Email:

By completing this form you give us permission to hold and process your personal information for particular purposes. For further information about how we process your data, see the privacy notice on our website.

What is the RCIA?

RCIA or Journey in Faith is the programme local Catholic Churches use to help people find out more about the Church and discover what it means to be a Catholic.

It can lead to becoming a full member of the Church. RCIA courses often start in the Autumn and run through till Easter.

RCIA stands for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and is often also called *Journey in Faith*. It is indeed a journey - it is a gradual process that takes pace within the community.

It is marked by different stages, with special Rites which mark entry to the next stage.

The first stage is one of initial thought and enquiry and is one where the person interested in becoming a Catholic thinks about making initial enquiries, and wants to find out more. It is a time of initial discovery and encounter with Christ, with the Church, and with other Catholics. It can be formalised by attending RCIA meetings or course sessions which, when the time is right, can lead to the next stage.

During the next stage the enquirer becomes a Catechumen or Candidate, and enters a period of more intense learning, study, formation and prayer.

The Rite of Election is a special service which marks the entry into this phase.

This is on the first Sunday in Lent and is attended by people from all over the diocese.

During Lent the catechumen or candidate goes through a final period of purification and enlightenment, ready for entry at the Easter Vigil.

In the final weeks candidates are presented with the Creed and Our Father.

At the **Easter Vigil** the Elect will receive the Sacraments of Initiation and become full members of the Catholic Church.

After the Vigil there is a further period - the **Mystagogia**, during which the new Catholics are invited to reflect on their experience, and during this period there is a special **Mass of Welcome** for them in the diocese.