

# RCIA – open to all

*Have you ever wondered what RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is about?*



Are you:

- **Connected to our church through family or school?**
- **Are you cradle Catholic, recent Catholic, returning Catholic?**
- **Interested in learning more about our Catholic faith?**

RCIA will commence in September 2021. It runs through to June 2022 with the highlight being reception of new Catholics into the Church at Easter next year.

We are keen encourage participation by those interested in becoming Catholic as well as inviting participation by existing parishioners interested in supporting this important programme while enjoying a “refresher” on many of the foundational teachings of the Catholic faith.

The programme comprises a series of structured sessions to look at the fundamentals of what we believe including the sacraments, rites and rituals of Catholicism. There are excellent published resources which guide leaders and inform participants through a series of weekly lessons (through the school terms). These start with broad topics to increase understanding of faith, prayer, the Bible and the meaning of the Mass and Catholic practices.

After these introductory sessions we focus on the Church, sacraments and moral life before preparing candidates for the sacraments of initiation to be received by them at Easter as they join the Church.

The leadership team comprises young and old - a mix of lifelong Catholics, recent converts, recent arrivals to nz and long-term parishioners. This combination of ages and stages offers opportunity to build new insights and friendships and a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere where everyone can journey and explore at their own pace

RCIA is consistent with our vision to be “... a parish in love with God and alive with joyful worship, active ministry and community outreach. Our parish mission includes “building community” and “growing the church”.

Many of us have become Catholics some time ago. The passing of time and the busyness of life can mean we have lost touch with the essence of our faith and how this has evolved from the Gospels and teachings of Jesus. RCIA is a great opportunity to reconnect and refresh what being Catholic is all about.

For existing Catholics this is a positive way to connect with our roots. It is especially strong in linking Scripture with our Catholic teachings and traditions. Rebuilding familiarity with the Catechism reminds us of the rich resources we have to help unfold the mystery and challenge interwoven through our Catholic faith.

If you want to deepen your understanding, grow in your relationship with God and be a more confident advocate for our faith then there are a number of ways to contribute. Consider encouraging those interested in becoming Catholic to attend, offer yourself as a sponsor to support candidates as they journey towards Easter and pray that God will bless this important initiative.

To express interest in joining RCIA contact the Parish Office or come to one, some or all of the next RCIA programme beginning on **Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 7-9pm at St Mary Immaculate church.**

If you are shy or uncertain -invite and bring a friend. Remember you will be with friends who are learning alongside and with others who wondering or in wonder about their Catholic faith.

**The RCIA Team**