

What is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults?

RCIA is a period of progressive conversion which includes particular ceremonies, leading adults through Christian Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist into full Communion with the Catholic Church.

- **Catechumens** – those who will be fully initiated through Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.
- **Candidates** – those already Baptised, who will be Confirmed and receive the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

A journey of Faith – what is involved?

The Church recognises four stages in the RCIA process:

- **Enquiry** – when a person approaches the Church community with an interest in Christ, and questions about faith and Christian life.
- **Catechumenate** – a period of time during which a person is prepared for Christian baptism, responding to instruction with a deepening response to the Gospel of Christ.
- **Preparation for Sacraments** – during the season of Lent there is preparation for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, to be received at the Easter Vigil.
- **Mystagogy** – ‘sharing the mysteries’ when new Catholics receive further instruction about the sacraments, the Church and Christian witness.

What if I am already baptised in another Christian Church?

The RCIA programme leads those who are already baptised in non-Catholic churches into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Can I join the RCIA programme if I am already baptised as a Catholic but have not been Confirmed?

For adults who are already baptised Catholics, the RCIA programme offers an opportunity to complete their Christian initiation, and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

What if I am not ready at the end of the programme?

Although we have a parish programme to assist individuals in becoming a Catholic, RCIA is really a process by which the Church accompanies those who hear the call of God and become disciples of Jesus Christ. It is a journey of conversion and for some will take longer than the period set out in this programme.

How do I join the RCIA programme?

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Catholic, and are considering joining the RCIA programme, you will need to speak with Fr John or with the programme catechists Dcn Adrian and Mary Hallett. They will help you to decide, and ask you to fill out the relevant form.

2011-12

How do I become a Catholic?

*Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults
'A Journey of Faith'*



Roman Catholic Diocese of Westminster
**CHURCH OF THE
SACRED HEART OF JESUS
& SAINT JOSEPH**



1 King Edward's Road,
Ware, Hertfordshire. SG12 7EJ
Tel. 01920 462140 Fax. 01920 486251
e-mail: ware@rcdow.org.uk
website: www.sacredheartware.com

Parish Priest: Fr John Gray
Deacon: Rev Adrian Cullen

RCIA - (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

RCIA is for non-Catholic adults who wish to learn more about the Catholic Faith, and who might be considering becoming full members of the Catholic Church.

2011	
June	
16 th 1.30pm / 8.00pm	'Come and See' – 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is RCIA? Who is it for? Where will it take me?
July	
7 th 1.30pm / 8.00pm	'Come and See' – 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RCIA programme Resources Meet past 'RCIAers'
August	
SUMMER BREAK	
September	
22 nd	1 – Start of a journey
29 th	2 – Meaning of life
October	
6 th	3 - Incarnation
13 th	4 – Law and Commandments
20 th	5 – Discussion and prayer
BREAK	
November	
10 th	6 – Life of Christ
17 th	7 – Virtues and vices
24 th	8 – Trinity and Church
Sat 26th	Rite of Acceptance as Catechumens

December	
1 st	9 – Liturgy and Sacraments
8 th	10 – Discussion and prayer
BREAK	
2012	
January	
12 th	11 - Scripture and Tradition
19 th	12 – Mary and Last Things
26 th	13 – Eucharist and the Mass
February	
2 nd	14 – Catholic Devotions
9 th	15 – Discussion and Prayer
Wed 22nd	Ash Wednesday – start of Lent
Sat/Sun 25th 26th	First Sunday of Lent Rite of Election at Cathedral
BREAK	
March	
1 st	16 – Grace and Beatitudes
8 th	17 -Confession
10 th /11 th	3rd Sunday of Lent – First Scrutiny
15 th	18 - Communion
17 th /18 th	4th Sunday of Lent – Second Scrutiny
22 nd	19 – Christian Life
24 th /25 th	5th Sunday of Lent – Third Scrutiny
29 th	20 – Discussion & Prayer and Preparation for Easter Vigil

April	
5 th	HOLY THURSDAY Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper
6 th	GOOD FRIDAY Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7 th	HOLY SATURDAY Easter Vigil Rite of Christian Initiation
Sun 8th	EASTER SUNDAY
19 th	Mystagogy - 1
May	
3 rd	Mystagogy - 2 <i>Mass for new Catholics</i>
June	
<i>Start of new programme</i>	

The RCIA Programme runs from June with 'Come and See' evenings, when those who are interested in joining the group can meet the catechists and discuss what is involved. Programme sessions are usually on a Thursday either 1.30pm to 3.00pm or 8pm to 9.30pm. Sessions include talks, discussion and prayer. There will also be practical sessions on receiving the sacraments. The 'Journey of Faith' has a number of steps which include the Rite of Acceptance for 'enquirers' who wish to carry on with the programme; and the Rite of Election for those who are ready to go forward to a period of Scrutiny and Initiation. For those who are ready, the RCIA programme leads to full Initiation into the Catholic Church through Baptism, Confirmation and Communion, received at the Easter Vigil.