

## *What is the R.C.I.A.?*

It is the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults...

..... a process for preparing and welcoming new members into the Catholic Community. It is a journey of faith and life.

A Community Journey..... that leads to a change of heart and mind through our journey with one another..... sharing, praying and worshipping with the church community.

A Personal Journey.....where we are able to discover our personal relationship with God through the Gospels and teachings of the Church in a friendly and caring environment.

## *How does it work?*

The process of becoming a Catholic Christian is a journey of faith made in the company of other enquirers, sponsors, catechists or presenters and priests.

The process involves discussion and sharing of the Gospels and the teachings of the Church, and leads to an understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus and a Catholic Christian.

## *How long will it take?*

That will depend on you !!

In most parishes the main part of the journey begins in late August, early September, and most enquirers are received into the Church the following Easter, and continue the journey up to the celebration of Pentecost.

If, after consultation with the parish priest and the team, you feel that you are not ready to be received into the Catholic Church the team will respect your decision. This is your journey of faith !!

Enquirers who make themselves known once a journey has started may be invited to wait, and meanwhile take part in a group meeting monthly for Gospel reflection.

## *What are the Sacraments of Initiation?*

These are the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion (or Eucharist) received by unbaptised people when they become members of the Catholic Church.

The Catholic Church recognises the Baptism received by Christians from other Christian Churches. In these cases the people wishing to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church would receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion.

## *Who are the sponsors?*

The sponsors are practising Catholics appointed by the Parish from the community to walk with you on your faith journey, to help you, support you, encourage you and provide a tangible link between yourself and the community. They are not necessarily the Godparents. They are companions on the journey.

## *Who are the catechists and/or facilitators/presenters.*

They are members of the community who have the skills and expertise necessary for the formation of enquirers. They are chosen before the process and trained in facilitating groups. They guide the members on their journey with Christ Jesus during this process.

## *Who else is involved?*

The entire community is involved in one way or another. There are those on the team, those whose role is hospitality, prayer partners and support members, and those who participate in the Sunday Eucharist, and overseeing it all is the Parish Priest.

## ***Are you searching for.....***

*A sense of belonging,*

*A place of welcome,*

*A sense of community,*

*Where there is God and meaning?*

*Have you ever wondered about the*

*Catholic Church and what it*

*teaches?*

*Are you interested in learning more*

*about the Catholic Faith?*

*Our Parish invites you to*

*explore with us*

*the place of God in our lives,*

*in and through the Catholic Faith.*

## ***Are you curious?***

*We invite you to contact the parish priest  
or the R.C.I.A. team member nominated  
below on the contact number given.*

*You may feel free to discuss with them  
your position  
and your privacy will be respected.*

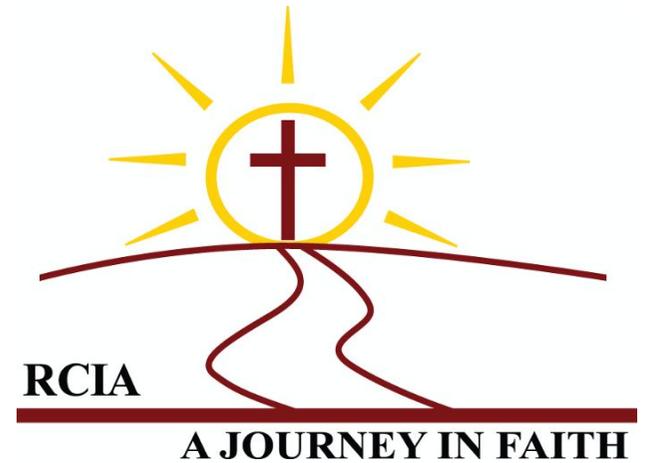
## ***Where to go from here?***

Phone numbers to contact:

Parish Priest: Fr. Abel van der Veer O.S.A.  
(03) 9827-9117 or Mobile 0409-368-449,

or

Pastoral Associate: Joyce Flint,  
At the Parish Centre on (03) 9826-9677



Parish of South Yarra:  
with churches at  
St. Joseph's, Fitzgerald Street,  
St. Thomas Aquinas, Bromby Street.

Parish Centre and Administration:  
Fitzgerald St, off Chapel Street,  
Opposite the Jam Factory.

Postal Address:  
P.O. Box 21, South Yarra, Vic. 3141.

Web site: [www.parishofsouthyarra.org.au](http://www.parishofsouthyarra.org.au)  
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parishofsouthyarra@internode.on.net