

This Issue

RCIA 2018 National Conference Ignite the Spark...

- Reflections on the key note by Shane Dwyer
- Alpha a tool to explore
- RCIA & Young People
- Resource Bank Centre for Evangelisation

For more information
visit the website:

www.cianetwork.net

**The rCIA
and Young People
Initiatives taking place
near and far**

Plenary Council Resources for RCIA:

RCIA perfectly mirrors the
process of sharing being
used in the Plenary Council:

- Listening & sharing Christ's teaching
- Sharing each others stories
- Listening to the Holy Spirit and to one another

RCIA can introduce & explore
with converts so much of what
Pope Francis is saying to us in
the '**Joy of the Gospel**'
as we respond to
& share our voice with
the Plenary Council.



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rCIA News 2018.5



Evangelisation
and the RCIA
MELBOURNE
11-13 OCT 2018

The 2018 CIAN Conference, *Ignite the Flame*, certainly provided much food for thought and fuel for the fire. This newsletter includes some of the wisdom shared and inspiration given by presenters. More of which can be accessed via the CIAN website: www.cianetwork.net

Shane Dwyer, Director of the National Centre for Evangelisation (NCE) which includes the Catholic Enquiry Centre, provided both the opening keynote and closing address. Focusing on the Interplay between Evangelisation and the RCIA Shane invited us to be part of a reflective process concerned with vocation, story and witness. Below are three points that particularly struck me,. They are accompanied by some of Shane's words of wisdom.

1. **The lack of recognition of so many church going Catholics of their role in the process of evangelisation – even though they may be engaged in this, if unknowingly.**

Shane reminded us that we all share in the vocation of 'Evangelisation;' which simply means to live by and share the Good News. "The Good News is that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, lived, suffered, died and rose again, that you and I might share in the eternal life God has always intended for each of us. Acknowledging and living out of our Baptism, confirmed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and nourished and healed in the Eucharist, is the heart of both salvation and of evangelisation.

Salvation is the entry into God's life-giving love, won for us in Jesus Christ. Evangelisation is allowing ourselves to be renewed and transformed by salvation, so that our lives become a living witness to all that God is doing in and around us. This can only happen when we are in a relationship with Christ, and are willing to give our whole self to him. It is something we struggle with daily, as have all generations before us."

2. **The concerns of people of other Christian denominations regarding the authority of the Pope and the role of Mary in the Catholic Church.**

Neither of these concerns need to be a barrier to dialogue or recognition of the core beliefs Christians hold in common. It is important to know our own story before we begin to dialogue with others, and when we do to find where these stories connect.

"The stories in the Old Testament teach us that we have been created to have an eternal relationship with the One who called us into being. They reveal that, through our selfishness, we have distorted that relationship. They also promise us that God's desire is to restore that relationship to its original strength and innocence.

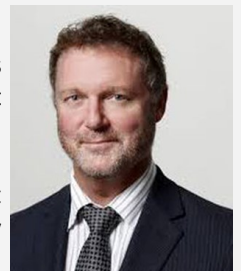
Jesus is the central point of the story: the one who brings it all together. For everything that is taught to us about God in the Old Testament comes to birth in the person of Jesus, and is revealed in his life, death and resurrection. In Jesus, the storyteller who is God, becomes one of us. God's story becomes aligned with ours." Shane invited us to reflect on and share with another person our own faith story, a process familiar to all involved in RCIA

3. **Shane's way of dealing with people who challenge his faith, usually on the grounds of a difficult personal experience, or dogged resistance to belief.**

Rather than responding in a defensive manner, Shane invites the person to tell him about 'the God you don't believe in.' After listening, he is usually able to acknowledge that this is also a God that he does not believe in. Very often, the God others are denying does not actually exist. What does, however, is their misguided assumptions. Respectful conversation that enables people to identify common ground is the best way forward, and the means through which truths can be gently uncovered.

Shane concluded his keynote with this New Testament text: "No one can hurt you if you are determined to do only what is right; and blessed are you if you have to suffer for being upright. Have no dread of them; have no fear. Simply proclaim the Lord Christ holy in your hearts, and always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you have.

But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their accusations." 1Peter 3:13-16



Anne Kennedy

Nourishing a Missionary Heart

The Redemptorist Monastery proved an ideal venue for the winter workshop, ***Nourishing a Missionary Heart***, led by Francis Leong, Director of Catholic Mission, Perth. With creative flair Francis, guided participants through a series of exercises encouraging use of different senses and ways of engaging the heart and mind to explore important messages contained in *Evangelii Gaudium* and *Laudato Si*.

The session allowed people to deepen their appreciation of the depth of wisdom contained in these documents. Participants left enriched by the input and the engagement, which had prompted the identification of some practical ways of responding to Pope Francis' call to care for our common home: the sister who *'now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her.'* LS2

The session concluded with Francis sharing a heart warming story of a Smash Repair business becoming a partner with Catholic Mission, both as a sponsor of the *Laudato Si* Workshops, and promoter of ecologically sound practices within business. What a great witness and example for faith.

To learn more about the work of Catholic Mission visit: www.catholicmission.org.au

To access *Laudato Si* visit: <http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals>

Sharing Workshop snippets from the 2018 Conference:



Alpha a stepping stone towards RCIA

Alpha is a series of interactive sessions freely exploring the basics of the Christian faith. For a number of years Alpha has proven an effective tool in helping people towards the starting point of faith, an encounter with the Jesus, the Risen Lord. Through a series of interactive sessions Alpha's introduces people to Jesus and allows them to discover the foundations of the Christian faith.

During the Conference short video clips allowed five people, received into the Church at Easter this year, to speak about their journey. For three of these Alpha had provided a stepping stone to RCIA. With others they continue to meet to reflect on the Sunday Mass readings. These gatherings help to deepen their love for and appreciation of the Scriptures, their relationship with Jesus, and with others attending the sessions. To find out more about Alpha in the Catholic context visit: www.alpha.org/catholics or contact Lorraine McCarthy, National Co-ordinator, on 0402 217 123 or lorraine.mccarthy@alpha.org.au

Why be a Catholic?

Any individual who has chosen to journey through the RCIA has, at some point, asked this question. In a time when faith in the Church, and other institutions, is at an all time low as a result of child abuse scandals, young people in particular are seriously asking the question.

It is important that we remind ourselves that through baptism we are united with the Mystical Body of Christ, whose life, death and resurrection was for the sake of the whole world, especially the most vulnerable. Through baptism we are part of the ministerial priesthood, "at the service of the common priesthood" (CCC 1547). We are Missionary Disciples, committed to following the person of Jesus. The cross we bear, humiliation and distrust in the wake of the scandal, will lead to new life if, like Jesus, we submit ourselves daily to the will of the Father.

The RCIA and Young People

Pope John Paul II often stated that ***'young people learn more from personal witness than from teachers, and if they learn from teachers it is because they are witnesses.'*** All people, the young in particular, desire to belong and to find meaning and purpose in life. Those brave enough to journey through the sacraments of initiation discover many ways of fulfilling the need. Increasingly there are young people in, our Catholic schools and parishes, who for a variety of reasons have not begun or completed the journey of Christian Initiation.

In recognition of this, work has been undertaken in our Archdiocese and beyond to find ways of filling the gap that exists between the well established structures of catechesis for children and for adults. Though designed for adults, the Rite of Christian Initiation also contains provision for the preparation and reception of children 'who have attained the age of reason and reached catechetical age.' #242 The process mirrors that of adult initiation marked by liturgical rites following catechetical formation. However, there are adaptations to accommodate the age and circumstance of the individuals.

To find out more about the work that has already taken place, and the resources that are, or will soon be available, continue reading over the page.

Further Conference content, for interest and enlightenment, will be shared in the next rCIA News. Topics will include:

- ***Fr Elio Capra - Missionary Disciples***
- ***All Year Round Catechesis***
- ***Creating a welcoming Community***
- ***More resource ideas***

The RCIA and Young People

What has been happening locally?

The Year of Youth seemed an ideal time to begin exploring ways in which High Schools and parishes across the Archdiocese might support young people interested in exploring the Catholic faith. Bishop Don entrusted this task to the Office of Christian Initiation.

Either side of Easter research helped uncover pockets of interest, and work already underway in the Metropolitan area, and interstate. The work helped define a number of foundational principles for the process of initiation for young people:

- *The accompaniment by young people and their involvement in catechesis*
- *Part of a life-long developmental process; creating missionary disciples*
- *Involvement of a three-fold focus of faith development: trusting in God, through relationship and prayer; believing in God's love and the story of salvation; responding to God's love through service and witness*
- *It must be engaging, interactive, responsive to the needs the individuals, using formats, time-scales and environments that are welcoming*

The research, principles and suggestions for an inter-parish project were then shared with clergy from five parishes in the south east metro region. Parishes recruited adults and young people willing to be part of the process. Over the winter months these volunteers engaged in a period of formation to better understand the RCIA process and work to create six basic sessions for the enquiry period.

Over a series of weeks invitations made for young people to **Come and See** what the Catholic Faith has to offer unearthed two young teenagers who are being channelled into existing groups able to accommodate them.

Time given by the team members to develop, gain confidence in using the materials, and explore ways of adapting them for use by different age groups proved valuable for all concerned. The task of refining a resource that can be easily shared across the Archdiocese continues. It will include suggestions for the other three stages of the Christian Initiation process.

In the Northern suburbs a couple of other pilot projects have also been taking place, using some of the same resources, but a different model of operation. Look out for the opportunity to be part of conversations relating to the rCI with young people.

Contact the office if you have experiences or any resource ideas to share.

"The Christian initiation of children / young people requires both a conversion that is personal and somewhat developed, in proportion to their age, and the assistance of the education they need." #243

crossroads-rcia Archdiocese of Brisbane resources for initiation with 9-16 yr olds

A collaborative project in Brisbane has resulted in the production resources for use with young people. Designed for use by Catechists within a school context, the sessions are 35 mins, for use as before or after school involvement. They can easily be adapted for parish use, and the activities extended or expanded on. In keeping with the rCIA the four step process is followed, with allowed adaptations. There are two sets of resources, to accommodate different age groups. However the maturity level of the group, not their age is likely to be the deciding factor. For each there is a set of Catechist worksheets. Nicely laid out, they have a consistent format, are very user friendly, and can be downloaded free from the website.

Crossroads RCIA for 9-12's: a colourful activity book is available for the students, this can be purchased from the Brisbane Liturgy Office, @ \$6.60 plus p&p.

Inquiry period has three sessions, the last of which includes preparation for the Rite of Acceptance.

Catechumenate period has eight sessions, each of which includes a 'living it' in daily life activity.



Period of Purification & Enlightenment has five sessions, the last of which includes immediate preparation for full reception. Options are also given for the **Mystagogia**, or living discipleship phase, according to the time of year the initiation takes place.

Crossroads RCIA for 13-16's: follows a similar format with the content at a deeper level, and use of a journal for note taking during the sessions. The **Enquiry period** is again three sessions, though more could be added if necessary. The **Catechumenate period** has 10 sessions and the **Period of Purification & Enlightenment**, six. In both instances these sessions are non catechetical, focusing on the relationship with God through reflection on the Sunday Gospels, the Creed and the Our Father. Ideally the older age group should take part in the Rite of Election and the Rite of dismissal at Mass during the Lenten period. For both age groups only the first scrutiny is celebrated. Those being fully initiated should receive the sacraments at the Easter Vigil if possible, or at another high point in the liturgical calendar. Completion of the sacraments by those already baptised should take place during the Easter season, or another appropriate time. The **Mystagogia** resources are still being worked on. By early December Resources should be available.

2020 Plenary Council Resources for RCIA:

RCIA perfectly mirrors the process of sharing for the Plenary Council:

- *Listening & sharing Christ's teaching*
- *Sharing each others stories*
- *We are called into dialogue, listening with Christ to one another*

RCIA can introduce & explore with converts so much of what Pope Francis is saying to the Church in the 'Joy of the Gospel' as we respond to & share our voice with the Plenary Council.

Resources have been produced for each of the Four RCIA stages:

1. *Enquiry*
2. *Catechumenate*
3. *Lent*
4. *Post-Initiation*

These can be accessed via the website:

initiation.perthcatholic.org.au

**Christian Initiation in the Enquiry
Period for the Plenary Council**

**Christian Initiation in the Catechu-
menate Period for the Plenary**

**Christian Initiation in the Lenten
Period for the Plenary Council**

**Christian Initiation in the Period of
Post-Initiation for the Plenary Council**

RCIA Plenary Resources may be used outside of the recommended RCIA stage.

- *Have a special meeting to allow sharing on the Plenary Council Question*
- *Respond on-line to the Plenary Council as an RCIA group, or as individuals*
- *Discern with the Holy Spirit the question:
What do you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?*

A plethora of faith development opportunities are on offer:

Book for any sessions via:

cfe.org.au



*Want to enrich your
understanding of faith?*

Term 4 program includes these gems:

Plenary Council Listening & Dialogue

open sessions at Newman Siena on

- Wed 7 Nov, 7.30-9.30pm and

- Tues 27 Nov, 2pm-4pm

Pope Francis Migrant & Refugee Day Message:

Wed 14 Nov, 9.30-12noon, Neman Siena

Advent: Preparing for the Coming of our

Saviour: Thurs evenings 8-29 Nov, 7pm-8.30pm, Nedlands Parish, \$20

Advent: A call to Gaudete et Exultate: Wed evenings 28 Nov-12 Dec,

7pm-8.30pm, Cloverdale Parish, \$25

The Prophets of Advent: Thurs evenings 6-20 Dec, 7pm-8.30pm, online, \$15

Advent: Preparing for Christmas by making

room for Jesus in our lives: Thurs 29 Nov, 9.30-2.30pm Girrawheen Parish, \$10

Within the Archdiocese there are many different ministries and organisations producing a wealth of resources, and opportunities for involvement. To check these out visit the website:

www.perthcatholic.org.au



JEDO

FAITH IN ACTION:

- JUSTICE
- ECOLOGY
- DEVELOPMENT

www.jedo.perthcatholic.org.au

[More free rCIA resources to download](#)

- ♦ **Revised RCIA Archdiocesan Framework**
- ♦ **Revised RCIA Mass Booklet**

initiation.perthcatholic.org.au