

This Issue

*Chosen, and Called
by name.....*

*The journey of faith
requires us to 'put out
into the deep'*

**RCIA 2018
National Conference
Ignite the Spark...**

- **Concluding address by
Shane Dwyer**
- **Missionary Disciples by
Fr Elio Capra**

visit the website:

www.cianetwork.net

Plenary Council
points emerging from RCIA
conversations - have your say

Submissions close
Wed 6 March.

The rCIA and Young People
new resources and
opportunities

World Day of Prayer
March 1st - Resources

Catechist Training

- ◆ **Catechist Course Cert 1A**
beginning 27 Feb or 1 Mar
- ◆ **Moral Issues Sessions:**



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rCIA News 2019.1



Chosen, and Called by name.....

We are blessed this year to have weeks of 'Ordinary Time' ahead of the Lenten Season, with Luke sharing the early stages of Jesus ministry. The calling of the first disciples reminds us that we too are the chosen ones. Like Peter, so too have each of us been called by name to build the kingdom of God here in Western Australia.

The reading will resonate in a special way to those converts preparing to be welcomed into the Church at Easter. Having responded to the call to 'come and see', [Jn 1:35-42] and preparing to commit to a life of discipleship, their names will be proclaimed in their parish, during the Parish Rite of Sending, and enrolled in to the Book of Elect at the Rite of Election.

The tired Peter complies with Jesus' request to 'put out into the deep'. The unprecedented catch of fish is a sign of the action of God being present. The unfolding grace received in the Sacraments of initiation, enables us to put out into the deep, confident that God is with us.

St Cyril, a bishop of Jerusalem in the 4th Century, once said to his catechumens:

'You now find yourselves within the fishing nets of Christ. Let yourselves be caught because he wants to capture you, not to kill you, but to give you life.'

May all journeying to faith find their life transformed, joy filled, and abundantly blessed. By Anne Kennedy

RITE OF ELECTION

*THURSDAY
14th MARCH 2019*

*ST MARY'S
CATHEDRAL TIME:
7.30pm*



*Parishioners are invited
to attend, along with
family and friends, to
support converts seeking
to become Catholic at
Easter.*



Evangelisation
and the RCIA
MELBOURNE
11-13 OCT 2018

In the last rCIA Newsletter words of wisdom from **Shane Dwyer's** opening address at the 2018 CIAN Conference, **Ignite the Flame**, were shared. The closing address, also given by Shane, was equally as stimulating. An abridged version is offered below. Snippets from Conference workshops can be found

overleaf or in more detail via the CIAN website: www.cianetwork.net

Picking up on Fr Elio's input on Missionary Discipleship, the previous day, Shane spoke of Revelation being offered to us in two volumes:

1 - the wisdom and tradition of the Church (Creation Story, the Bible, early Church Fathers), 2 - personal experience. Shane acknowledged that

increasingly, in this current age, people find the truth not from authority; which in so many instances have let people down, but from Google. Our role as Missionary Disciples and as Catechists, is to help people find the truth contained in each volume. This we do by finding links between the two. What does it mean to bring our experience into creation and Scripture? When people are very anti the Church, or negative towards God, ask them to reflect on their experiences. As they then share these, look for ways to connect the experiences to creation and Scripture. The challenge is to move people from a state of living *from the outside in*; where faith is questioned and negativity is brought to the inner self, *to the inside out*; where falling in love with the God who loves them enables people to see and engage with the world in a much more positive way.

(continued overleaf)



Living from the inside out... *continued;*

When we merely try to offer explanations in response to peoples questions our answers don't make sense, because they are seen in isolation. Giving the right answers to the questions, no matter how often or articulately stated, will not work. People need to be helped to get in touch with their experiences and be open to find God there – the God who loves them unconditionally. Jesus is the tree upon which the fruits of our labours will grow.

Encouraging people to get in touch with their experiences is difficult. We are not in control of what might happen. We therefore need to trust that God is in control. Before trying to explain to people how we live and what we believe, we need to help them meet Jesus. A worrying question here might be, will they find Jesus amongst our community, or even be made welcome there?

Without an awareness of God at work in our lives, both personal and communal, the teachings of our faith become just a series of burdens to carry. For that reason, the experience of loving, and being loved by God is the only context in which the teachings of the Church make sense. People who have met God, know his love and are able to turn the burden carried by one person into another persons joy.

Fr Elio Capra SBD offers a new way of beginning the RCIA catechetical journey...



Laudato Si, the ecological Encyclical by Pope Francis, was the starting point for Fr Elio's input. developed. From the start of his pontificate Francis was keen to give a new face and new direction to the Church. While that is likely to be a long journey, Francis is in for the long haul. Laudato Si contains the heart and soul in the task of changing the face of the church. It must also be at the heart of our Catechesis with Catechumens and Candidates.

Fr Elio stressed the importance of Catechesis beginning not with the Ministry of Jesus, but with the story of creation. The symbolic narrative contains profound teachings about human existence and the historical reality in which all life is grounded: our relationship with God, neighbour, and the earth. When there is division amongst any of the three, things start falling apart.

Division is result of sin, which Fr Elio reminds us occurs when we make ourselves 'little Gods' people who want to be the centre of attention. When we do this we put God out of the picture. As a result, we become selfish and greedy, beginning to destroy not just ourselves, but the created world around us. We are therefore capable of wiping out those who are not like us – our actions create chaos. The first to suffer are the poor. Our dismissal of them and lack of concern returns us to the void, the chaos and darkness that existed before God created himself.

Towards the Rite of Election

Rite of Election Parish Kit

Free download Includes:

Parish Rite of Sending

Scrolls on which to write the names of catechumens and candidates for the Archbishop at the Rite of Election

Discernment for the Rite of Election

Carpark details

And lots more useful information!

If you've not received your Rite of Election Kit, visit the website: initiation.perthcatholic.org.au to access one. Alternatively contact Karen via email: christian.initiation@perthcatholic.org.au

RCIA Teams are asked to register their arrival at the Cathedral and collect the name tags and souvenirs for the Catechumens and Candidates from the foyer. All attending the service are asked to be seated in the Cathedral by 7.15pm at the latest.

God, as creator, is in all things. The breath of God is present in each of us, we are impregnated with his spirit and share the DNA of Jesus. Like him we too are both human and divine. The incarnation, the coming of Jesus into the world heralded in a new stage of evolution through which transformation can take place. The more we open ourselves to God, the more divine we will become, in our relationship with God, with each other and with the world.

The Mission of Jesus, the God of the incarnation, was to turn towards the world in creative love, redemptive healing and transforming power. This turning point in history is not confined to the activity of the Church. We are all called to be witnesses of God's transforming love. In order to participate in God's Mission we must recognise, and listen, so enabling us to discern the work of God around us. It is an encounter with mystery. We must help people to be open to God in every aspect of their lives, encouraging them to contemplate and to engage. The Mission of the Church, in service of the Kingdom of God, has three essential, inter-related dimensions: Human Liberation, Inculturation and Inter-Religious Dialogue. The Second Vatican Council made clear the importance of these dimensions, offering direction and purpose in how to engage more fully with each. The recent canonisation of Archbishop Romero, who gave his life in the fight for human liberation, highlights the importance Pope Francis gives to this dimension of Church Mission.

How does the understanding of Mission expressed above impact our approach to Catechesis? *Find out in the next rCIA news.*

The RCIA and Young People

New resources now available on line



In the last issue of the rCIA news included information about Crossroads, a collaborative project in Brisbane.

Designed for use by Catechists within a school context, the sessions can easily be adapted for parish use, and the activities 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. The maturity level of the group, not their age is the more important indicator for choosing which resource to use.

Crossroads RCIA for 9-12's: Materials produced in a user friendly format for Catechists are available for each of the stages of the RCI journey. They can be downloaded free from the website. A colourful activity book is also available for the young people. The cost is \$6.60 plus p&p. Copies can be ordered on line through the Brisbane Liturgy Office

Crossroads RCIA for 13-16's: The Catechist materials are in a similar format with the content at a deeper level. A journal is required for note taking

Come and See...

The invitation in these words from St John's Gospel, is continually being offered by Jesus. It follows the insightful question he previously posed: "What do you want?" Thankfully in our time young people, as well as adults are interested in explore the Christian faith. Work undertaken here in the Archdiocese last year created a set of **Come and See** resources to be used with young people, aged 15 plus for the initial enquiry stage of the journey.

In the coming months the materials will be put into a format that can be made available on line, and with suggestions of structures and resources available to guide young people through the other three stages of the RCIA process.

More information will be circulated when available.

In the meantime if you have:

- **Been Involved in supporting young people through the rCIA process**
- **Created or located resources that have been useful**
- **Or - Would be interested in learning from the experiences of others**

please contact the Office to let this be known:

christian.initiation@perthcatholic.org.au

World Day of Prayer—Friday 1st March (or nearest date to celebrate)

"a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice"

The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome you to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. It is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March. **"Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action,"** is its banner. The movement aims to bring together women of various races, cultures and traditions in a common Day of Prayer. Through this action they grow closer in fellowship, understanding and action during the year ahead.

Each year a different country provides the focus for the Prayer. In 2019 the host country is Slovenia. The theme, prepared by the women comes from the parable in Luke 14:15-24: **"Come, everything is Ready!"**



Located in Central Europe Slovenia is one of the smallest countries in the region. It has four major natural units: the Alps, the Pannonian Plains, the Dinarides, and the Mediterranean Area. Its highest mountain is the Triglav.

Slovenia has two million inhabitants and the official language is Slovene, with Hungarian and Italian being co-official languages.

The core of the 2019 WDP theme is an invitation – **Come**, which invites a response. We are told, everything is ready. Come to praise, thank, and proclaim the kingdom of love.

The invitation is grounded in the parable that Jesus told about a great dinner which was attended by the ones called off the streets, as the ones invited excused themselves. The community formed around the table is not enough to fill the house – there is still room. It encourages us to ask: **'Who are missing from the table in our community?'** at home, in our parish, and nation?

The artist, Rezka Arnuš, was keen to present two topics with her artwork. The country of Slovenia and the main biblical story. At the top there are women dressed in national traditional costumes. The semicircular ornament with Slovenian folk embroidery represents a plate or a table with the best known national dish – potica – and grapes from various wine producing vineyards. Partly under the table, are the children from the margins of the society. They heard the invitation to the feast. The red and white colours reflect Slovenian folk embroidery. The green background colour emphasises the green Slovenia, fields and forests. The warm colours of children express the joy of heartfelt invitation.

To find out the location of WDP services in your area or to access resources to create your own service, at home, amongst friends or in the parish, visit the website: <http://www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org/world-day->

2020 Plenary Council

Many people around the Archdiocese have grappled with the

Plenary Council question **“What is God asking of us in Australia at this time?”** The word **US** highlights the inclusivity being sought in the process. Each of **US** can respond as individuals or as part of a group,

viewing the question from different perspectives: as parent, spouse, single, a carer, a catechist, etc. In fact responding to the breadth of the question, includes all Australians; all lapsed, hurt or disillusioned Catholics, and every other Australian regardless of the religious denomination. RCIA may be where we meet them.

Of particular importance for the Bishops is **US** as the Church, the people of God. How are we witnessing to our faith and making the Gospel message known in the world? Just as the submissions will provide much food for thought to the Bishops and other members of the Plenary Council, our reflection should also identify actions or attitudes that **WE**, individually and as parish communities, need to tackle.

Some of the key themes emerging from the RCIA and OCI Management PC sessions are shared to encourage further reflection and conversation.

Mission - we need to know and embrace it

- *Ensure Christ is at the centre of our lives and mission, and strengthen Christian Unity*
- *Be bold in helping making the truth known - we are called to repent, turn away from sin show forgiveness and make disciples of all people*
- *Ongoing formation is crucial to our Mission, but not recognised as important by the majority*

Community & Relationships

- *Provide warmth and welcome to all who enter our doors; live the hospitality of Christ's heart*
- *Inclusivity: communities prepared to be with one another in care and support, listening humbly, not merely be solution orientated. Be open to all.*
- *Local parishes working together more, especially in relation to Christian Initiation.*

Prayer and worship

- *Celebrate the Sacraments with renewed emphasis, believe in the need for & power of prayer*
- *Liturgy to be engaging and friendly in all parishes*
- *deepen our understanding of scripture in a way that touches our hearts, allowing us to grow in spirit, bringing about transformation*
- *For there to be a greater involvement of women*

Submission to the Plenary Council Committee close Ash Wednesday 6th March.

Ongoing faith development opportunities are on offer:

Book for any sessions via:

cfe.org.au



Want to enrich your understanding of faith?

Term 1 program includes:

Plenary Council Listening & Dialogue

open sessions at Newman Siena on
- 26 Feb 2pm - 4pm Free

Blessed are the Peacemakers: Gospel non-violence and the 2019 World Day of Peace Message Thursday 28 February, 9.30-11.30am, Neman Siena - Free

Online courses with Rev Dr Charles Waddell:

All will be well: The Spiritual Insights of Julian of Norwich Thursday evenings 21 February - 7 March 7.30-8.30pm, \$15

The Impact of God: Spiritual Insights of St John of the Cross: Thursday evenings 28 March - 11 April 7.30-8.30pm, \$15

Lenten Study & reflection opportunities:

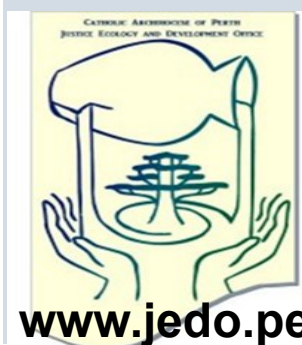
Seeking the Counsel of the Wise: A journey through the Wisdom books Thursdays 7 March- 11 April, 10am-12pm, Newman Siena, \$45

Lenten Leisure: A sabbath Approach to Lent Tues evenings 12 March-2 April, 7pm-8.30pm, \$20 donation, St Mary's parish, Highgate

The Passion and the Cross: Lent 2019 Wednesdays 13 March - 10 April, 10am-12.30pm, Newman Siena 5 sessions \$55, including the book Thursdays 14 - 18 March 3 sessions \$25 with book

Journey towards Easter: the meaning of Lent Tuesdays 12 March - 2 April, 8pm-9.30pm 4 sessions, \$20 donation Sacred Heart Parish, Thornlie

Discerning Lent one reading at a time: Wednes-



JEDO

FAITH IN ACTION:

- JUSTICE
- ECOLOGY
- DEVELOPMENT

www.jedo.perthcatholic.org.au