

# This Issue

## The Rite of Election

### RCIY—a Snapshot of a New Resource

### Ideas for ongoing Parish gatherings after the Plenary sharing sessions

### Article summary: As Baptised as the Pope by Shane Dwyer

### Article on: Experiencing Loss

### Centre for Faith Enrichment: Term 2 Courses

### JEDO News on World Environment Day 5th June 2019

### The LifeLink Winter Appeal A message from the Archbishop

# rCIA News 2019.2



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Quote: UNSUBSCRIBE

### The Joyful Solemnity of the Rite of Election

The Rite of Election of Catechumens and Formal Recognition of Candidates is celebrated in the Archdiocese of Perth in the first week of Lent. The Rite welcomed 77 catechumens and 65 candidates to the Cathedral, from Parishes throughout the Archdiocese. Though Lent is regarded as a period of prayerful and serious discernment in the Church, God's election of those who yearn to be received into the Church at Easter, is an occasion of immense joy.

Within this extraordinary liturgy, though not an essential element of the Rite, the meet and greet of the catechumens and candidates by the Archbishop and his delegates, is always a cherished part of the conversion journey of the converts. This year, Rev Fr Phillip Perreau was asked to assist with the greetings, as he is the Archbishop's representative for the Office of Christian Initiation. Also, the contribution of the newly appointed Dean of the Cathedral, the Very Rev Dr Sean Fernandez SThD, joined the Vicar General Rev Fr Pether Whitely, to support the Archbishop welcome each catechumen and candidate to the Church.

Although the Rite of Election is celebrated throughout the world, it is an opportunity for the Church in Perth, to personally acknowledge those seeking to join our Catholic community of faith. The Community Choir of parishioners, who gather from throughout the Archdiocese, embody this welcome, as they sing beautifully together for this Liturgical Rite, and in accompaniment of the two processions of converts, as they are ushered forward for the greetings.

God continues to call people into the Catholic Church to enrich, renew and enliven our parish life.





## 'Come & See' OCI Archdiocese of Perth

### *Come & See*

In the encounter between Jesus and the disciples of John the Baptist, recorded in John 1:35-39, Jesus uses the simple phrase 'Come and See' to invite the two men to accept the challenge of following him. The same invitation is being offered to young people who today have shown an interest in the Catholic faith.

The 'Come and See' resource has been designed to help young people begin to enter into a relationship with Jesus, and through the process, learn about themselves, God and the Church.

Bringing young people into the Church is not merely an event to aim for. It is an invitation to a life choice that has lasting implications. The process of Christian Initiation therefore aims to form missionary disciples: individuals who will be living witnesses to their faith and active in the life of the Church. Accompaniment and support are crucial on the journey, not merely by Catechists, but other young people and the parish community since, as the Bishops of WA make clear:

*"It is the parish community that invites and welcomes new members; it is where initiation into the faith is celebrated and nurtured, it is where people learn to live as a community of the faithful." (Bishops Mandate, 2009-2015 # 79).*

To ensure those seeking to come into the church have a good foundation from which to build the *Come and See* resource has six inquiry sessions. Each includes opportunities to engage in conversation, reflection, activity and prayer. Time to socialise at the start and end of each session is also important. The six sessions are summarised below.

**1. Come & See what this journey is about:** (1-1.5hrs) The session introduces young people to the aim, session structure and purpose of the Inquiry sessions. Participants are encouraged to share the reasons they have chosen to *Come and See*, to acknowledge their perceptions of God and the Christian faith along with experiences of particular denominations.

**2. Come & See what we believe:** (1.5-2hrs) The Creed is an important focus of this session, which also explores the similarities and differences between the main world religions, in particular the link between Judaism and Christianity. Young people have the opportunity to reflect on their images of God and Jesus, and discover key understandings that are expressed in the Bible.

**3. Come & See how we live:** (1.5-2hrs) In this session the meaning of Church, and how it has evolved, is explored. The notion of a Pilgrim Church is unpacked as are the ways in which the universal Church is united as one, yet has very distinct elements. The session concludes with reflections on the challenges and opportunities facing those who wish to live a faith filled life.

**4. Come & See what we pray and worship:** (1.5-2hrs) Prayer unites Christians in many different ways. In this session young people share personal experience and are helped to understand the importance of the various signs, symbols and gestures that are common in the liturgical life of the Church. A visit to the Church provides the opportunity to talk about what happens in the different parts of the Mass, and to point out features that are common to all Catholic churches.

**5. Come & See how we serve:** (1.5-2hrs) By looking at the ministry of Jesus young people gain clear messages about the meaning of service, and the ways in which Christians are called to serve others. The session provides opportunities to discover the many ways in which the Church, and individuals within it are serving God and their neighbour.

**6. Come & See how we discern & celebrate:** (1-1.5 hrs) This session include reflection on the discernment process and experience so far, an overview of the Rite of Acceptance and steps beyond. The session concludes with a shared meal, an experience of agape.



## National Centre for Evangelisation Director: Shane Dwyer

Shane Dwyer is an executive member of the Plenary Council Committee.

*(Over the Lenten period, the Australian Catholic Church faced new and even greater challenges*

*with Cardinal Pell's conviction and incarceration. Although we are now in the joyous glory of the Easter Season, our struggles remain, yet we can never forget the grace, mercy and hope of our living relationship with our infinitely patient God.)*

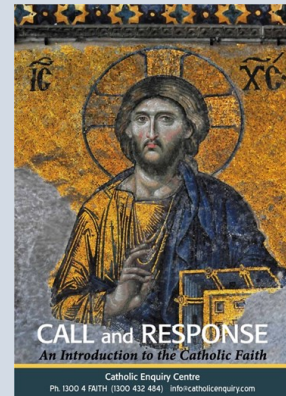
'The Church is in regular need of renewal and reform, and this should not surprise us. Any organisation that lets you and me through the door is never going to be perfect. For this is one of the glories of the Church: that all are welcome—saints and sinners alike. And this is the burden of the Church: that all are welcome—sinners and saints alike.

**There is nothing happening in the world, in the Church, or in your own life that is preventing you and me from living the faith we have received.**

But we are human beings and it can be hard to do this without support... Learn to think of yourself as an agent of evangelisation... embrace the call to enter deeply into our faith, and where appropriate as opportunity arises, take the step of sharing that faith with others. You are as baptised as the Pope, and you are called to live your baptism as if nothing else matters.

Edited from article by Shane Dwyer *As Baptised as the Pope*

**Ideas for parish groups to continue meeting and sharing their faith after the Plenary Council gatherings.  
An ideal opportunity for Neophytes to join in**



A great background resource to support Parish groups to share their faith  
Call & Response – RCIA Companion Manual \$15  
**Published by: St Paul's Publications**  
**Catholic Enquiry Centre**  
at [info@catholicenquiry.com](mailto:info@catholicenquiry.com)  
or phone 1300 432 484

## Experiencing Loss ...

Over Lent and in this Easter Season, questions have arisen in some RCIA groups on how the Church deals with loss.

Loss includes many different forms including: loss of a loved one or someone you knew of, loss of health, a job, or any plans you had that cannot be fulfilled. 'Sadly today there are many deaths by suicide... yet suicide remains widely misunderstood and generally leaves those left behind with a particularly devastating kind of grief. Among all deaths, suicide perhaps weighs heaviest on those left behind.'<sup>1</sup> With suicide still often regarded as a taboo subject, it is 'generally seen as the ultimate act of despair ... and goes against the deepest instinct inside us, our will to live.'<sup>2</sup> The emotional wounds those left behind with involve a great deal of second-guessing of whys and what ifs? Even the consolation of faith in the face of the grief and shock of suicide is little comfort when the pain is so raw.

Archbishop Costelloe's Homily at the Chrism Mass spoke poignantly:

*'As this year has unfolded, many of us may well have felt as if we were engulfed in darkness and that we were stumbling and lost in the land of shadows. For all of us who together make up the Catholic community of the Archdiocese of Perth, whether we be members of the laity, of religious life or of the clergy, it must feel as if we have been walking together our own "via crucis", our own way of the cross. Perhaps in ways that have never been as true before, we find ourselves crying out with Jesus, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned us?" The suffering has been and continues to be real and painful. We cannot ignore it or minimise it or pretend that it doesn't matter.'* The Archbishop also offered comfort to us, echoing Isaiah, *'The people that walk in darkness has seen a great light. On those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.'*

'We need not worry unduly about the eternal salvation of those who die in this way. God's understanding and compassion infinitely surpass our own. Our lost loved ones are in safer hands than ours... given the width and depth of God's love, the one who dies through suicide meets, on the other side, a compassion that's deeper than our own and a judgement that intuits the deepest motives of their heart.'<sup>3</sup>

**The Centre for Life, Marriage and Family** offers these helpful points:

- Talk to friends or family who care and understand ... or join a support group.
- Take care of your physical health. Grieving can be exhausting ... eat a healthy diet, exercise and sleep.
- Manage stress by lightening your load and share responsibilities, chores and commitments with family, friends and work colleagues.
- Relaxation and gentle exercise can be helpful.
- Do things you enjoy, even if you don't really feel like doing them.
- Ask for help without being afraid.
- How to help someone else:
- This can be difficult in knowing how to comfort a grieving person, sometimes simply offering love and support is most important.
- Ask how they are feeling as each day can be different for someone grieving; take time to listen and understand what they are experiencing.
- Talk about everyday life too. Their loss and grief does not have to be the whole focus of every conversation.
- Be gentle and expect they will have ups and downs.
- Ask them how you can help them.
- Respect their need for space but keep in contact and checking on them, even after the initial shock wears off.
- Encourage them to seek professional support if their grief does not ease over time.

**For further support:**

- ◆ **The Archdiocese of Perth** is providing new grief counselling service for those struggling with grief, please call: 0432 541 588
- ◆ **Centrecare:** [www.centrecare.com.au](http://www.centrecare.com.au) (08) 9325 6644
- ◆ **Beyond Blue:** [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au) 1300 22 4636
- ◆ **Lifeline Australia:** 13 11 14

1. Ron Rolheiser Struggling to Understand Suicide, July 2013

2. I bid

3. Ibid

<https://ronrolheiser.com/struggling-to-understand-suicide/>

<https://ronrolheiser.com/suicide-when-someone-is-too-bruised-to-be-touched/>





## JEDO

### FAITH IN ACTION:

- JUSTICE
- ECOLOGY
- DEVELOPMENT

[www.jedo.perthcatholic.org.au](http://www.jedo.perthcatholic.org.au)

In Pope Francis encyclical *Laudato Si*, he bluntly reminds us of the moral sin, and thereby responsibility, each of us has as stewards of the gift of creation. The whole of creation shares the same Divine Architect and thus demands our attention and care. The United Nations, aware that the protection and improvement of the human environment is a major issue, which affects the well-being of peoples and economic development throughout the world, designated 5 June as World Environment Day. The celebration of this day provides us with an opportunity to broaden the basis for an enlightened opinion and responsible conduct by individuals, enterprises and communities in preserving and enhancing the environment.

**“On World Environment Day, the message is simple: reject single-use plastic. Refuse what you can’t re-use. Together, we can chart a path to a cleaner, greener world.”**

— Secretary-General, António Guterres

**The JEDO motto is, to serve God for justice and peace. Check out the website for more information on how the Church is responding to issues of Justice & Ecology.**

### LifeLink 2019 Winter Appeal

*This winter, stretch out your hands to help our people in need ... just as Jesus does with us.*

Our Easter celebrations each year help us to turn our eyes to Jesus, and remember who He is: *the One who gave His life for us and asks us, as His disciples, to do the same for others, especially those most in need.*

At a time when the failings of so many in the Church are now so obvious to us all, and the faith of many of us in the Church has been, and continues to be tested, it is good for us to remember the promise of Jesus, that He would be with us always even to the end of the world. We may fail the Lord, often and badly, but the Lord will never fail us.

When we consider the path trod by the Good Shepherd we see Him as the healer of broken bodies and spirits, the encourager and support of those who have lost hope, the one who fed the hungry and cared for the disabled, and spent time with the grieving; who never missed an opportunity to be, both in His words and in His actions, the presence of the God of compassion and love, who had sent Him. He asks us, as His disciples, to do the same in His name.

Edited from the Archbishop’s LifeLink Winter Appeal  
<https://lifelink.com.au/>

## Consider Ongoing faith development opportunities for Neophytes, Sponsors and RCIA Teams

Book online: [cfe.org.au](http://cfe.org.au)

E: [cfe@perthcatholic.org.au](mailto:cfe@perthcatholic.org.au)

P: 9241 5221



*Want to enrich your understanding of faith?*

### Term 2:

#### History of the Early Church: The Story Begins (Part 2)

30 May—4 July

10.00-12.30pm

\$45 @ Newman Siena Centre Doubleview

Facilitator: Dr Marco Ceccarelli

#### Such is the Story of Heaven & Earth: The Foundational Stories of the Old Testament

20 May—1 July (no class 3 June)

10.00-12.00pm

\$45 @ Newman Siena Centre Doubleview

Facilitator: Mr Joe Tedesco

#### Open Mind, Open Heart: An exploration of ‘Centering Prayer’

5 June— 3 July

10.00-12.30pm

\$55 (Includes copy of the book) @ Newman Siena Doubleview

Sr Shelley Barlow RNDM

#### Home: The Place of Encountering Christ

9—30 May

7.30—9.00pm @ Midland Parish

Suggested donation ~ \$20

Derek & Karen Boylen

#### Prayer: Being Yourself Before God

11—25 June

7.00—8.30pm @ North Beach Parish

Suggested donation ~ \$15

Dr Margaret Scharf OP

#### What does it mean to be The Church in the 21st Century?

29 May—19 June

7.00—8.30pm @ Applecross Parish

Suggested donation ~ \$20

Mr Joe Tedesco

#### Dive Deeper: The Adventure of Christian Life

16th May—30th May

7.30—8.30pm

\$15 Online

Rev Dr Charles Waddell

#### Divine Footprints: Seeing Some of the Ways God Walks with Us in Creation

20 June—4 July

7.30—8.30pm

\$15 Online

Rev Dr Charles Waddell