

What help and assistance will I have during the RCIA process?

In addition to Father Grant and Sister Margaret, there is an RCIA team of about three or four parishioners who will be at the group meetings with you. Over the last five years there have been about thirty candidates presented for entry to the Church and close friendships have built up between candidates and members of the RCIA team. If you have any difficulties, members of the team will be on hand to help you. Our experience of the RCIA has been that it is a rewarding and worthwhile experience for everyone involved in it.



So what do I do now?

If you wish to go forward and participate in RCIA, either Jim Aitken, our Parish Co-ordinator or Sister Margaret will meet individually with you to discuss your particular circumstances and to give you further information on the programme.

If you come from another parish, you may wish to take part in the RCIA process in that parish if there is one in place. However, if you feel that you would like to take part in RCIA with the Holy Family Parish, then every effort will be made to enable you to do so.

I can't make up my mind what to do tonight. How can I make contact later?

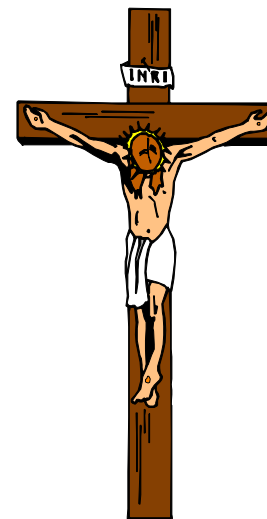
Jim can be contacted by telephone at 01698 746619. Sister Margaret can be contacted at 01698 844992.

When will I have to decide by?

This year RCIA is due to begin on 8th September. You should advise Sister Margaret or Jim before that date.

Holy Family Parish

Enquiry Evening
1st September 2005



I think I would like to become a
Catholic

Welcome to the Holy Family Parish Enquiry Evening where you can obtain information on becoming a member of the Catholic Church.

Deciding that you may wish to become a Catholic is a big step to take. We hope that after this evening you will have made the decision to go forward and receive instruction in the Catholic faith.

How is this done?

Well, firstly, the process by which the Church welcomes new members is called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, quite a mouthful, but shortened to RCIA.

The RCIA process takes place over a period of about nine months, with new members admitted to the Church during the Easter Vigil on the 15th April 2006. This initiation into the Church would only take place if both yourself and the Parish RCIA team felt you were ready and prepared. If you do not feel prepared to do so at that time, the initiation can be delayed for another year.

At any time up to your initiation at the Easter Vigil you are perfectly free to withdraw from the programme.

What happens during the RCIA process?

Between September and May, you would attend a weekly discussion group with members of the RCIA team. These usually take place on a Thursday evening, last about 60 minutes and conclude with tea and coffee. The meetings are held in the Parish Centre.

For the first few weeks, discussions with the RCIA team look at our relationship with God, our journey of faith and our response to God's call.

Between October and February, there is a series of discussions, led by catechists, which concentrate on particular aspects of the faith, beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church.

During Lent, in March and April, you prepare for reception into the Church at Easter. RCIA concludes in May.

What usually happens at the weekly meetings?



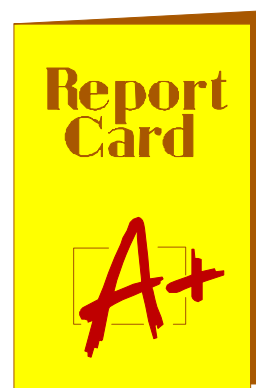
The meetings will start and finish with short prayers to set the right context for the meeting. Apart from the RCIA team there are usually one or two catechists who will have prepared information on the subject of the evening. This may involve scriptures readings or music. An important part is the discussion which takes place within the group.

This sounds very involved. Is a lot expected of me?

Not at all. You do not have to become involved in the discussion but, on the basis of our experience with RCIA over the last three years, discussion is very lively and everyone takes part.



What if I fail?



It is not a question of passing or failing. The suitability of a candidate to enter the Church is as much decided by the candidate themselves as anyone else, because it is a big step to take. Nor should it be seen as a race. If you are not ready to enter the Church at the first Easter Vigil then it can happen at a later one. The important thing is that the candidate is sufficiently prepared to take on the responsibilities of being a Catholic, spiritually as well as practically.