

CATHY'S STORY...

What led you to becoming Catholic?

My husband was Catholic and we had agreed to raise our children as Catholic. The children were in the Catholic Education System and I regularly attended Mass with my family.

Being raised with strong Christian principles it seemed the natural thing to do, and subconsciously I knew it was the right thing to do.

Through the children's Baptism Preparation, lovely parishioners visited to share their joy in our baby's birth.

How did you find the process of becoming Catholic?

Enlightening and very supportive since there were others going through the same journey as me.

The hospitality made me feel welcome and relaxed and any points of confusion were discussed. There was openness in relationship with Christ and a heartfelt response to the invitation by Christ.

How has your life changed since you became Catholic?

My Parish is very welcoming and I have met many wonderful people, so it was natural that I grew more involved in Parish life.

The Parish community has become part of our family life and through making new friends and the parish opportunities I have had; I have personally grown.

"...subconsciously I knew it was the right thing to do."

NEIL'S STORY...

What led you to becoming Catholic?

My wife is Catholic and her religion is really important to her. It was essential for our sense of family unity that we were all on the same page supporting each other.

I had Christian beliefs that had lapsed and the timing was right for a quickening of my faith.

I also needed to reconcile myself with my past, and my Parish Priest guided me through this process of peace.

How did you find the process of becoming Catholic?

The process was intellectually challenging, educational and necessary. Making an effort was important in the valuing process; it offered depth and meaning to the path I was on.

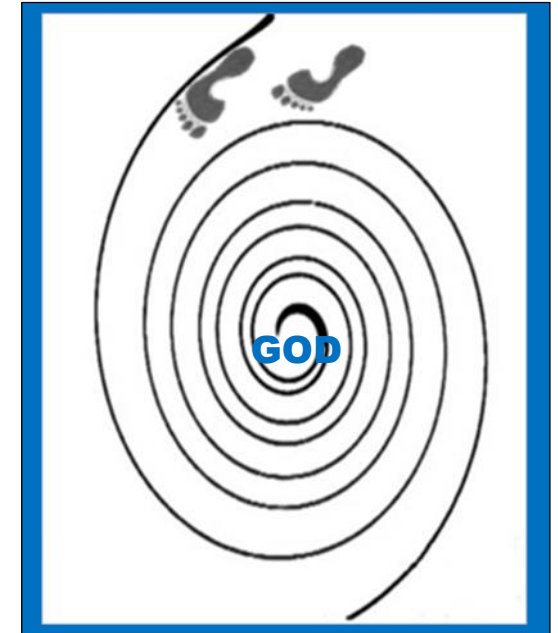
The leader in our group was excellent; her personal journey offered knowledge and understanding with relevant dimensions to my life.

How has your life changed since you became catholic?

Our family is settled and it has a weekly rhythm that has certainty. We all have roles within the parish so we can give back the support that we received.

"I also needed to reconcile myself with my past, and my Parish Priest guided me through this process of peace."

Thinking about becoming Catholic...



Come & See what Catholics believe...

Christian Initiation is a personal journey of deepening your relationship with Christ within a supportive community of faith.

What is Christian Initiation?

Christian Initiation is a process for preparing and welcoming new members into the Catholic faith.

- The initiation process supports each person deepening their individual relationship with Jesus.
- It is set within a Catholic community who share their faith experience guided by Gospel values.

How does it work?

- The process of becoming a Catholic Christian is a journey of faith made in the company of other enquirers, catechists, sponsors and priests.
- The process involves exploring your spirituality, encouraged through prayer and worship while developing familiarity with the Gospels to grow in faith and discipleship with Christ.

Enquirers are welcome and you are free to journey at your own pace.

How long will it take?

- This will depend on where you are starting from. Most parish groups begin mid-year and journey to the following Easter when you are received into the Church, with the process concluding at Pentecost.
- The uniqueness of each person's journey involves a gradual unfolding and deepening of your relationship with Christ; the intention is not to rush this process since it involves both the mind and heart's conversion.

Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19

Who are sponsors?

Sponsors are practicing Catholics who offer support and encouragement by walking the journey with you, and provide a personal link between you and the wider Church community.

Who are catechists?

Catechists are practicing Catholics who take the responsibility to share the Gospel teachings of Jesus with you; encourage understanding of community faith, prayer and worship; and offer instruction on the foundational beliefs of the Catholic faith.

What does the Parish Priest do?

The Parish Priest is the spiritual director and is available for personal, spiritual and pastoral advice when needed. He also confidentially interviews you early in the enquiry period, to reassure and guide your path forward.

Why is a parish community important?

A small group representing the wider parish community offer welcome and hospitality within a sincere and confidential atmosphere, which enables candidates to overcome any uncertainties, while exploring their faith. The wider parish community offer prayers, welcome and a sense of belonging and acceptance.

Christ initiates the Invitation to 'come and see'.

Your response involves you exploring this personal invite to deepen your spirituality in, with and through Jesus.

What are the Sacraments of Initiation?

Initiation involving any new membership is a process through which candidates gradually become initiated fully into the community. So too in Christian Initiation, the Sacraments of Initiation are Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion. These sacraments are received by the unbaptised.

Those candidates already baptised in other main Christian denominations, are looked upon as brothers and sisters in Christ through their Baptism. Baptism is never repeated – unless there is an unusual circumstance.

Baptism is an outward sign of God's inner grace and welcome into His Christian family; Confirmation confirms The Spirit of Baptism received to bear witness to Christ as His disciple; Holy Communion is the source and summit of Catholic faith.

These Sacraments of Initiation are explained gradually through the unfolding process of your conversion journey.

Enquires are most welcome
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