

CATHOLIC PARISH OF

RITE OF ACCEPTANCE INTO THE ORDER OF CATECHUMENS AND RITE OF WELCOME OF BAPTISED CANDIDATES

FOR HE WHO IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE
FULFILS ALL THEIR SPIRITUAL EXPECTATIONS, INDEED
INFINITELY SURPASSES THEM.

[RCIA #26; *Ad Gentes* no. 13]

Bibliography:

The Roman Ritual: Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
(St Pauls Publications, Strathfield N.S.W. 2003)

The Parish Companion to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
Terry Wade, Editor
(James Gould House Publication, Melbourne 2005)

OUTLINE OF THE LITURGY:

Introductory Rite:

Greeting of Catechumens and Candidates

Presider Addresses Assembly

Opening Dialogue with Catechumens and Sponsors

Opening dialogue with Baptised Candidates and Sponsors

Catechumens First Acceptance of the Gospel

Invitation to Candidates to Live the Baptismal Call

Affirmation by Sponsors and Assembled Community

Signing of The Cross; Signing of The Senses

Presentation of a Bible or Missal

Concluding Prayer

Invitation to Celebrate The Word of God

General Intercessions

Prayer over Catechumens and Candidates

Dismissal *or*

Liturgy of The Eucharist

Concluding Rite

INTRODUCTORY RITE:

Suggested options (only) for the Introductory Rite:

- The (unbaptised) catechumens, with sponsors, and members of the Parish community gather in the foyer or outside the Church.
- The (baptised) candidates, with sponsors, and members of the Parish community, sit in the front pews of the Church. (From RCIA #48)]
- The celebrant may go with members of the Parish community to greet the group outside and lead them to the sanctuary steps.
- The celebrant may invite the group in the foyer to come forward.
- The catechumens, candidates and sponsors may be part of the Entrance Procession.
- An appropriate hymn may be sung during this procession into the Church.

Priest's Greeting & Receiving the Catechumens & Candidates:

[From RCIA #49]

This morning we have the pleasure of welcoming (Named here if preferred).... Adults, who have not yet been baptised; and have begun their journey with our parish RCIA Team and today make an initial commitment to continue this journey by becoming part of the Catechumenate process.

We also have seated in the front pews, (depending on option of Introductory Rite) ... (Named here if preferred) Christians who by virtue of their Baptism, also wish to further enquire into the Catholic Church and through today's Rite will be strengthened and supported.

Standing at the threshold of a new life in the Church, both the unbaptised and the baptised candidates will be welcomed within our Parish community. [The Parish Companion p.87]

Priest Addresses Assembly:

And so my friends are you willing to pray for, encourage and welcome these candidates as they continue their journey of faith?

All: We are.

Opening Dialogue with Catechumens: [From RCIA #50]

Priest: What is your name?

Catechumen: N.

(Only used if catechumens were not previously introduced)

Priest: What do you ask of God's Church?

Catechumen: Faith

Priest: What does faith offer you?

Catechumen: Eternal life.

[The Priest invites the Candidates and Sponsors to join the Catechumens and Sponsors on the Sanctuary Steps.]

Opening Dialogue with Candidates: [The Parish Companion p.87]

Priest: What do you ask of God's Church?

Candidate: I ask your welcome and support so that I may know the Lord more deeply and live my baptism with you as a full member of the Catholic Church.

[The manner of acting or praying is intentionally left undetermined ..., so that ministers, according to their prudent pastoral judgement, may accommodate the Rite to the circumstances of the candidates and others who are present. RCIA #35]

[The Priest invites the Catechumen's and Candidates Sponsor's to introduce them to the Parish community]

Priest: Sponsors would you please introduce your candidate to those of the community gathered here this morning.

Sponsor: I have much pleasure in introducing ...N...to you, who is seeking acceptance into the Catechumenate.

[RCIA #51 The Candidates' First Acceptance of the Gospel may be replaced by the Rite of Exorcism # 70-72]

Catechumens' First Acceptance of the Gospel:

[RCIA#52; Option B]

Priest:

God is our Creator and in Him all living things have their existence. He enlightens our minds, so that we may come to know and worship Him. He has sent His faithful witness, Jesus Christ, to announce to us what he has seen and heard, the mysteries of heaven and earth.

Since you acknowledge with joy that Christ has come, now is the time to hear His word, so that you may possess eternal life by beginning, in our company, to know God and to love your neighbour. Are you ready, with the help of God, to live this life?

Catechumens: I am.

Invitation to Candidates to Live the Baptismal Call with the Church: [The Parish Companion p.88]

Priest:

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin and given you new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, through your Baptism, into the dying and rising of the Lord.

Are you prepared to obey more closely your Baptismal call to follow Jesus who is The Way, The Truth and The Life, and to join us in a life of prayer and service?

Candidates: I am.

Affirmation by the Sponsors and the Assembly: [RCIA #53]

Priest:

Sponsors, you now present these candidates to us; are you, and all who are gathered here with us, ready to help these candidates find and follow Christ?

Sponsor: We are.

Priest:

And I ask you all: do you welcome our candidates and promise to be a support and living sign of Christian faith to them?

All: We are.

With hands joined, the celebrant says:

[The Parish Companion p.88]

Priest:

Let us pray:

Gracious God, so many journeys of faith, all of them unfinished, begin to intertwine today. We thank you for the new life you bring us. As we walk our pilgrim way together make us a strength to each other and sign of faithfulness to all we meet.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All sing or say: We Praise you, Lord, and we bless you.

Signing of The Cross:

[RCIA # 54 (Option A) -56; The Parish Companion p.89]

Priest:

Catechumens step forward now with your sponsors to receive the sign of your new way of life as catechumens.

[The Priest and Sponsor trace a cross on the forehead of the catechumens]

Priest:

Candidates step forward now with you sponsors and receive once more the Sign of The Cross which first claimed you at your baptism. May the dying and rising of the Lord touch every part of your life so that His way may become your way.

[The Priest and Sponsor trace a cross on the forehead of the candidates]

Priest:

N. Receive this cross on your forehead.
It is Christ Himself now who strengthens you
with this sign of His love.
Learn to know Him and follow Him.

[All sing or say the following or another suitable acclamation.]

All: Glory and Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

Signing of the Senses:

- The Signing is a beautiful prayer and reminds the assembly to practice the graces they already receive.
- The celebrant may invite Sponsors and a member of the community (optional) to Sign the Senses following his instruction.
- The celebrant may prefer to Sign the Senses of the catechumens and candidates himself.
- Pastoral sensitivity must be shown for personal space, as people may not wish to be physically touched. Particular care should be taken for signing the heart. It is advisable to sign the shoulder area.

Priest:

Receive the sign of the cross on your ears, that you may hear the voice of the Lord.

Receive the sign of the cross on your eyes, that you may see the glory of God.

Receive the sign of the cross on your lips, that you may respond to the word of God.

Receive the sign of the cross over your heart, that Christ may dwell there by faith.

Receive the sign of the cross on your shoulders, that you may bear the gentle yoke of Christ.

Receive the sign of the cross on your hands, that you may do the work of the Lord.

Receive the sign of the cross on your feet, that you may follow in the footsteps of our Shepherd.

Priest:

[RCIA # 56]

I sign you with the sign of eternal life in the name of the Father,
and of the Son +
and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Presentation of a Bible or Missal:

[RCIA # 64; The Parish Companion p.90]

The Priest now offers the gift of a Bible or Missal to the Catechumens and Candidates

Priest: [To the Catechumens]

Receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Catechumen: Amen or Thank you

Priest: [To the Candidates]

Continue to grow in the life of the Gospel.

Candidate: Amen or Thank you

Concluding Prayer:

[RCIA #57 Option B]

Priest:

Let us pray.

Almighty God,

by the Cross and Resurrection of your Son
you have given life to your people.

Your servants have received the sign of the cross:
make them living proof of its saving power
and help them to persevere in the footsteps of Christ.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

[RCIA #58: According to The Conference of Bishops, the giving of a new name may take place.

The Archdiocese of Perth does not follow this practice.

RCIA #59: Refer to Additional Rites #74]

Invitation to the Celebration of the Word of God:

[RCIA #60-63 to be used outside of Sunday Mass]

Liturgy of the Word:

Intercessions for the Catechumens and Candidates:

[RCIA #65]

Priest:

These catechumens and candidates, who are our brothers and sisters, have already travelled a long road. We rejoice with them in gentle guidance of God who has brought them to this day. Let us pray that they may press onwards, until they come to share fully in our way of life.

Reader:

That God our Father may reveal his Christ to them more and more with every passing day, let us pray to the Lord:

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader:

That they may undertake with generous hearts and souls whatever God may ask of them, let us pray to the Lord:

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader:

That they may have our sincere and unfailing support every step of the way, let us pray to the Lord:

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader:

That they may find in our community compelling signs of unity and generous love, let us pray to the Lord:

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader:

That their hearts and ours may become more responsive to the needs of others, let us pray to the Lord:

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader:

That in due time they may be found worthy to receive the baptism of new birth and renewal in the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord:

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

Prayer over the Catechumens and Candidates:

[RCIA #66 ; Option B]

Priest:

Let us pray.

Almighty God,

source of all creation,

you have made us in your image.

Welcome with love those who come before you today.

They have listened among us to the word of Christ;

by its power renew them

and by your grace refashion them,

so that in time they may assume the full likeness of Christ,

who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

Dismissal

[RCIA #67; The Parish Companion p.90]

Priest:

Go out now in peace to continue to let the Word of God speak to you; and may the Lord remain with you always.

All: Thanks be to God

OR

Liturgy of The Eucharist

[RCIA #68]

Priest:

Although you cannot yet participate fully in the Lord's Eucharist, stay with us as a sign of our hope that all God's children will eat and drink with the Lord and work with the Holy Spirit to re-create the face of the earth.

[The celebration of the Mass now continues.]

Concluding Rite

As per Roman Missal