

This Issue

2020 Plenary Council

Resources for RCIA:

1. Enquiry
2. Catechumenate
3. Lent
4. Post-Initiation

RCIA perfectly mirrors the process of sharing for the Plenary Council

- Listening & sharing Christ's teaching
- Sharing each others stories
- We are called into dialogue, listening with Christ to one another

RCIA can introduce & explore with converts what Pope Francis is saying to the Church in the *Joy of the Gospel* as we respond to & share our voice with the Plenary Council



RCIA WORKSHOP

Nourishing a Missionary Heart

See Attached Flyer



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rCIA News 2018.4



The Voice of Christian Initiation for The Plenary Council

The Australian Catholic Bishops, on receiving approval from Pope Francis, have called for a Plenary Council in 2020. This important Council, called in our time, is a significant moment in Australian Church history, to plan for the future of the Australian Catholic Church. As a local national Council, it is the highest form of Church gathering outside the ecumenical councils, and we are all invited into this dialogue.

The Plenary Council question is, *what do you think God is asking of us in Australia today?* The clergy and laity are being asked to openly listen to what the Spirit is asking of us and share with each other our stories, ideas, concerns and strengths of the Australian Catholic Church, and its future. The Church has, and is, facing huge challenges today; it is part of our *full, conscious and active participation* of Christian discipleship, to engage in this conversation. [Sacrosanctum Concilium 14]

Christ's mandate to the early Church at His Ascension (the RCIA Gospel) was to share the Good News, which is essential to Christian initiation. As we respond to God's mission of evangelisation, RCIA is at the heart of this. The unfolding discernment we must practice, calls us to *'Listen to what the Spirit is saying ...'* [Rev 2:7] to each of us.

Those on the conversion journey of becoming Catholic are actively *listening to what the Spirit is saying to them*. Through the nature of the process of initiation; their seeking, responding, challenges, and struggles, offer us all the example of positive engagement with the Spirit, as they discern their path forward. By our accompanying them, we bear witness of our faith and experience.

Have a special meeting to share the Plenary Council Question in each stage of the RCIA process.

Respond on-line to the Plenary Council as an RCIA group.

Discern and grow over the RCIA process in our sharing and discussion of:

What God is asking of us in Australia today?

Each stage of the RCIA process has a different tone and intention; with this in mind, resources have been prepared for each phase, based on a foundation document of the Plenary Council, Pope Francis' encyclical *Evangelii Gaudium, the Joy of the Gospel*. The Resources invite each part of the RCIA journey to reflect on the Plenary Council question as they explore extracts from the encyclical based, on the particular stage of RCIA.

Some may question why the voice of converts is important to *what God is asking of Australia today?* The hope of Christian Initiation is that those we walk with become future active members of our parishes. They affectively highlight what God is asking of them, (and us) by positively answering His call, to *come and see*. The Church's responsibility is to pray for, support and nurture those in our midst, seeking closer union with Christ and His Church.

The 2020 Plenary Council, invites the whole Church of Australia to respond to what God is asking of our culture, in our time and place. St Benedict echoes the Book of Proverbs, asking us to *listen with the ears of our heart*, tuning our ear to wisdom and our heart to understanding; [Prov 2:2] Let us all respond to the Plenary Council so the voice of RCIA is heard, as we reflect on this question and the future of the Australian Catholic Church.

**FREE RCIA RESOURCES
NOW AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD
from Office of Christian Initiation
website:
initiation.perthcatholic.org.au**

Christian Initiation in the Enquiry Period
for the Plenary Council

Christian Initiation in the Catechumenate
Period for the Plenary Council

Christian Initiation in the Lenten Period
for the Plenary Council

Christian Initiation in the Period of
Post-Initiation for the Plenary Council

**RCIA Plenary Resources may
be used outside of the
recommended RCIA stage**

*These Resources gradually unpack the
encyclical the Joy of the Gospel
for RCIA groups to explore
as they are encouraged to respond
to the Plenary Council*

**Also Free to download
Revised RCIA Archdiocesan
Framework**

+

**Revised RCIA Mass Booklet
FREE on the website:
initiation.perthcatholic.org.au**

www.jedo.perthcatholic.org.au

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and the RCIA
MELBOURNE
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Adult Faith Formation Workshop

Nourishing a Missionary Heart for our Common Home



A workshop focusing on Mission:

The workshop will explore how Pope Francis' teachings in *Evangelii Gaudium* & *Laudato Si'* can touch and transform our faith journey in the ordinariness of our everyday lives.

Useful for all who wish to deepen their understanding of the calling of the Holy Spirit in the current time and culture.

Those involved in the ministry of RCIA, including RCIA Teams, sponsors, converts and neophytes, are especially encouraged to attend.

When: Saturday 25 August

Time: 9.30am - 12.30pm

Presenter: Francis Leong

Venue: Redemptorist Monastery Nth Perth

Cost: \$15 pp

Workshop Aims:

1. Linking Acknowledgement of Country with key teachings in *Laudato Si'*.
2. Develop an understanding of the historical, ecclesial and scriptural context to *Evangelii Gaudium* and *Laudato Si'*.
3. Experience Prayer through Visio Divina, Lectio Divina and left-hand/right-hand dialoguing.
4. Understand Christian meditative practice as a first step towards missionary discipleship.
5. Explore ways to experience transcendence & encounter Jesus in the ordinariness of everyday life.
6. Explore the Eucharistic dimension of our relationship with Creation.
7. Experience the Contemplative Walk as an act of kinship with Creation.
8. Explore the challenges *Evangelii Gaudium* and *Laudato Si'* poses to the family and parish community.

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Registration to:

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Francis Leong is the Diocesan Director for Catholic Mission in the Archdiocese of Perth. He conducts regular accredited professional development workshops for schools on mission and evangelization.

Catholic Mission is the official universal overseas missionary aid agency of Pope Francis. It represents the work of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Australia in raising funds for projects that target the needs of poor & vulnerable children throughout the developing world.

 **catholic
MISSION**
Reach out. Give life.