

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER
FOR PARISH USE
&
THE STAGES OF RCIA**



**Office of Christian Initiation
450 Hay St
Perth**

Ph: 6104 3696

Email: christian.initiation@perthcatholic.org.au

Website: <http://initiation.perthcatholic.org.au/>

Why should parishes pray for those on the journey of Christian Initiation?

The Church's Mission definition:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

[Mt 28: 19-20]

As a Church, we have responsibilities:

“...the people of God, as represented by the local Church, should understand and show by their concern that the initiation of adults is the responsibility of all baptised.”

[Vatican Council II *Ad Gentes* Decrees of the Church's Missionary Activity]

As a Parish we are the living witness of the Body of Christ in our local communities.

“You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy people; praise God who called you out of darkness and into His marvellous light.”

[1Pt 2:9]

“Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.... God put all the separate parts into the body on purpose... As it is, the parts are many but the body is one.”

[1 Cor 12: 12-13, 18-19]

‘By joining the (unbaptised) catechumens (and baptised candidates) in reflecting on the value of the Paschal Mystery and by renewing their own conversion, the faithful provide an example that will help the catechumens to obey the Holy Spirit more generously.’

[RCIA # 4]



All parishes are called to remember those responding to Christ's invitation of love, to 'come and see' [Jn 1:39] what the Church has to offer.

Parishes are encouraged to remember those on the conversion journey of Christian Initiation in the Universal Prayer of the Mass, in the prayers of any Parish ministries, and in our private prayer life.

Praying for those who are answering Jesus invitation, and exploring the deepening of their relationship with Christ through the process of Christian Initiation, is our response, mission, and responsibility to bearing witness to our faith.

We invite Parishes to periodically include a prayer below, to their Universal Prayer for the relevant Liturgical Season.

Universal Prayer during Lent:

1. For the elect and candidates (N.) seeking to join the Catholic community of faith; that trusting in the truth of Christ, they may find freedom of mind and heart, and preserve it always.
Let us pray to the Lord:
R. Lord, hear our prayer
2. For the whole world and especially those on the conversion pathway; that all may ponder the Word of God in our hearts and savour its meaning more fully day by day.
Let us pray to the Lord:
R. Lord, hear our prayer
3. For the elect and candidates God has called to join us as His own; that they may be filled with the hope of the life-giving Spirit and prepare themselves thoroughly for the Sacraments of Initiation and Full Communion with the Catholic faith.
Let us pray to the Lord:
R. Lord, hear our prayer
4. For the building of the Universal Church in welcoming the elect and candidates in our midst; that the Holy Spirit who searches every heart may help them to overcome their weakness through the saving power of the Spirit.
Let us pray to the Lord:
R. Lord, hear our prayer

We invite Parishes to periodically include a prayer below, to their Universal Prayer from the relevant Liturgical Season.

Universal Prayer during Ordinary Time and for the Christian Initiation Stages of Enquiry and the Catechumenate:

1. For those whom God has called to be His own; that God the Father may reveal his Christ to them more and more with every passing day.
Let us call upon the Lord.
R. Hear us, O Christ Jesus
2. For those seeking to deepen their relationship with Jesus; That they may undertake with generous hearts and souls what ever God may ask of them.
Let us call upon the Lord.
R. Hear us, O Christ Jesus
3. For those in our midst who are on the conversion journey home to Christ; that they may have our sincere and unfailing support every step of the way.
Let us call upon the Lord.
R. Hear us, O Christ Jesus
4. For the unbaptised catechumens and baptised candidates in our community; that their hearts and ours may become more responsive to the needs of others.
Let us call upon the Lord.
R. Hear us, O Christ Jesus
5. For those who have responded to Your invitation of love and knocked on our parish door seeking closer union with You; That we as a parish community embrace them as they begin living a fruitful life in the company of your faithful.
Let us call upon the Lord.
R. Hear us, O Christ Jesus
6. For the community of faith and those seeking to become one with us through the process of Christian Initiation; that we are all made in Your image and likeness and may all assume full likeness of Jesus, in grace and spirit.
Let us call upon the Lord.
R. Hear us, O Christ Jesus

**Universal Prayer during Ordinary Time and
for the Christian Initiation Stages of Enquiry and the
Catechumenate:**

7. For those unbaptised catechumens and baptised candidates (N.); that they are supported by our community of faith as they seek answers to the many questions that have, as they discern God's call of salvation, personally to each of them.

Let us call upon the Lord.

R. Hear us, O Christ Jesus

8. For all those on the pathway of conversion to the Catholic faith; That they may receive suitable pastoral formation and guidance into the mystery of God's love and the gospel way of life.

Let us call upon the Lord.

R. Hear us, O Christ Jesus

9. For the hearts and minds of the conversion journey of Christian Initiation, namely (N.); that they are supported to explore the Sunday Readings and deepen their intention to following Christ.

Let us call upon the Lord.

R. Hear us, O Christ Jesus

10. For all those seeking to join the Catholic community of faith; that they may become actively involved in the apostolic life of the Church and our parish.

Let us call upon the Lord.

R. Hear us, O Christ Jesus

11. For the unbaptised catechumens and baptised candidates in our community; that they may actively participate in the liturgical rites and celebrations of the Word of God.

Let us call upon the Lord.

R. Hear us, O Christ Jesus

12. For the deepening relationship with Christ for those seeking Baptism and those already baptised in other Christian denominations, (N.); that their personal prayer life will develop in strength with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Let us call upon the Lord.

R. Hear us, O Christ Jesus

[The Parish Companion to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults
p. 23, 33]

We invite Parishes to periodically include a prayer below, to their Universal Prayer from the relevant Liturgical Season.

Universal Prayer during Advent and Christmas Time:

1. For those seeking a home in the Catholic Church through the process of Christian Initiation; that they may walk in God's light as He continues to enter their lives in unexpected ways, with opportunity to grow in love and make progress in the kind of life we are all meant to live.
Come Lord Jesus
R. Lord hear our prayer.
2. For the unbaptised catechumens and baptised candidates desiring union with the Catholic faith; that we support them as we all reform our lives preparing the way of the Lord, making time for prayer and reflection on the Gospel.
Come Lord Jesus
R. Lord hear our prayer.
3. For those on the conversion journey of Christian Initiation, namely (N.); that they may welcome into their hearts the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus, with joy, peace and hope.
Come Lord Jesus
R. Lord hear our prayer.
4. For those in our midst (N.) who are on the conversion journey home to Christ; that they may be open to deepening their faith as they listen with the ears of their heart to God's word.
Come Lord Jesus
R. Lord hear our prayer.
5. For those whom God has called to be His own; that as God delight's in their spiritual conversion, they reflect on His Word as they journey to becoming one with us, following the example God gave us through His Manifestation.
Come Lord Jesus
R. Lord hear our prayer.

[St Paul's Sunday Missal Advent Year A, B, C,
& Christmas Readings]

We invite Parishes to periodically include a prayer below, to their Universal Prayer from the relevant Liturgical Season.

Universal Prayer during Easter:

1. For (N.) whom we have welcomed today into the Catholic family of faith; that they may have the help and guidance of the Holy Spirit to persevere faithfully in the choice they have made.
Let us pray to the Lord.
R. Lord hear our prayer
2. For (N.) whom we welcome into full Communion with us today; that the power of the Holy Spirit will guide their path of holiness.
Let us pray to the Lord.
R. Lord hear our prayer [RCIA #325; 409]
3. For our sisters and brothers whom we welcome into the Catholic faith community; that they may continue to reflect on the Word of Christ as they unpack the mysteries of the Eucharist now one with us.
Let us pray to the Lord.
R. Lord hear our prayer [RCIA # 234-235]
4. For the new members of our parish community;
That they will continue to listen to the loving voice of the Good Shepherd as they explore their vocations, accompanied by all the sheepfold.
Let us pray to the Lord.
R. Lord hear our prayer [4th Sunday of Easter]
5. For (N.) who have been welcomed into the Catholic faith; that they may follow the pathway home to Christ as we journey with them developing the saintliness of our lives.
Let us pray to the Lord.
R. Lord hear our prayer [5th Sunday of Easter]
6. For those in our midst who have recently joined the Catholic faith community; that as each of us bears witness to our faith, we may draw closer, one in Christ Jesus as we live out our Christian ministry.
Let us pray to the Lord.
R. Lord hear our prayer
7. For the new sisters and brothers in our community; that they continue in their formation as they unpack the gifts of the Holy Spirit, facing the challenges of bearing witness to the Christian faith. [Pentecost Sunday]

Bibliography

The Parish Companion to the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

**Terry Wade, Editor
2005 James Goold House
Publications
Melbourne**

St Paul's Sunday Missal

**2015 St Paul's Publications,
Strathfield, N.S.W**

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults RCIA

**Congregation of Divine Worship
St Paul's Publications
2003 St Paul's Publications,
Strathfield, N.S.W**

**The Roman Missal Congregation for Divine Worship
and the Discipline of the Sacraments**

**ICEL
2010 St Paul's Publications,
Strathfield, N.S.W**