



# Responding to the invitation to *Come and See....*

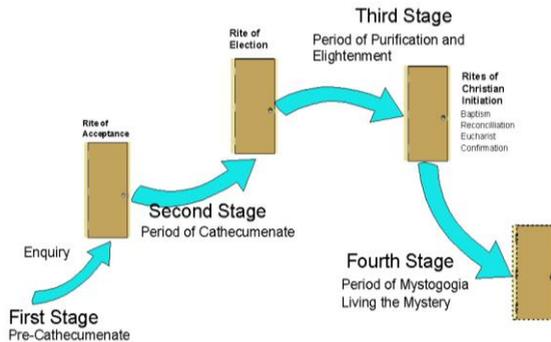
## - *Beginning the journey*

*rClyp – The Rite of Christian Initiation for Young People*

### Christian Initiation – *what is it?*

<i>It is not ...</i>	<i>It is ...</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a program...</li> <li>• a course...</li> <li>• giving people faith...</li> <li>• learning about God...</li> <li>• purely instruction in the faith</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A personal journey</li> <li>• Conversion of the heart &amp; mind through a relationship with Christ</li> <li>• Preparation for lifelong discipleship</li> <li>• Set within a community of faith</li> <li>• Accompanied by others</li> <li>• An interactive process</li> <li>• Open and evolving</li> </ul>

**Process has 4 stages:**



**All stages involve 3 forms of Catechesis:**

- Lectionary – *Scripture*
- Liturgical – *Prayer and worship*
- Instructional – *Tenets of faith*

***Enquiry Stage: An invitation to come and see...***

- What we believe (*who we believe in & the teachings associated with that*)
- How our community prays and worships
- How our community lives
- How our community serves and ministers to others.

***Important to keep in mind:***

that: *“Faith is more than an option. Being a Christian is not the result of a lofty idea, but of an encounter with Christ.”* Pope Benedict VI

***we are in this together:*** the process requires us to:

Be respectful of others:

- be on time and participate fully
- listen, share be courteous
- accept differences of experience and opinions and see them as learning opportunities
- keep confidential personal sharing – it stays in the group
- be aware of the feelings of others

Be respectful of the venues:

- we are using Church property
- God is present whenever we gather – so we are on holy ground

**Opening prayer:**

Dear Lord, we thank you for bringing each of us here today. In particular the young people who, having recognised your call, have been brave enough to respond to the invitation to ‘come and see...’ Open our minds and hearts that during this session we may grow in relationship with one another and with you, the one who was, who is, and who is to come.

Amen

### ***'Come and See...'*** John 1:35-39

<sup>35</sup> The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup> When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, "Look, the Lamb of God!"

<sup>37</sup> When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, "What do you want?"

They said, "Rabbi" (which means "Teacher"), "where are you staying?"

<sup>39</sup> "Come," he replied, "and you will see."

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

***Reflection:*** After listening to the story reflect on the questions:

- How does the passage speak to me?
- Why am I here?
- What prompted me to respond?
- What is it that I hope to see?

***'Come and see...'*** is the start of a journey:

The journey is a process of through which relationship building takes places. Gradually we become more familiar and more comfortable with one another, with God, and with the Church Community.

***Journey into a Mystery*** - a coming of age, initiation story that speaks of the human need to grow spiritually.

***Spirituality – what is this?***

All people are spiritual beings. Spirituality is an awareness of that which dwells deep within us, and which responds to people and situations around us. Spirituality helps us make sense of life.

Our spirit is the life that God has breathed into us. It is a gift, and like any other we can ignore, or use, the choice is ours. God gave us free will. In accepting and responding to God's Spirit within us, our lives will become richer, more rewarding and fulfilling, yet also more demanding.

**Reflection:** following the story:

- In ordinary life what helps us to grow spiritually & experience God?
- Name the things in daily life that are important for spiritual growth.
- Identify the people who have helped me appreciate there is a God.
- In the past week what has been a surprise for me; good or bad - and how has this helped me to grow spiritually?

***Beliefs and Practices that express faith:***

The major world religions share a number of things in common; and indeed some of these beliefs overlap to varying degrees.

- a deity / God figure(s)
- a sacred text
- core beliefs
- specific practices and rituals
- designated leaders
- a mission

**Activity** - list as many items as you can under each heading

- Core Beliefs shared by Christians
- Practices undertaken by Christians
- Beliefs Specific to Catholic Christians
- Practices Specific to Catholic Christians

Alongside these identify which are

- \* most attractive
- ? pose questions for you

This list is not exhaustive – but highlights some key points

<b><i>Core Beliefs shared by Christians</i></b>	<b><i>Beliefs that are Specifically Catholic</i></b>
<p>There is one God who is the Creator of the world &amp; Father of all people            Trinity – 3 persons: God the Father, Jesus Christ as the Son of God, the Holy Spirit            The Bible as the inspired word of God            Jesus born of a virgin            Jesus Came into the world to suffer and die to redeem us of sin            Death and resurrection of Jesus            Ascension into Heaven            Pentecost            The call to Discipleship            Forgiveness of sins            Judgment by God - most            Heaven and Hell            Sanctity of Life</p>	<p>The true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist            Purgatory            The Communion of Saints            That all will rise again on the last day            The Immaculate Conception            The Assumption and Coronation of Mary            Mary as Mother of the Church            Mary and the Saints as intercessors            We cannot be saved by faith alone – love needs a response, faith and good works go hand in hand            Authority of the Pope</p>
<b><i>Practices undertaken by Christians</i></b>	<b><i>Practices that are Specifically Catholic</i></b>
<p>Reverence in Sacred Spaces            Respect for ordained ministry            Prayer and worship – individual and collective            Gathering to celebrate the Last Supper            Celebration of key feast – Christmas, Lent, Good Friday and Easter            Rituals for Initiation, birth, marriage and death            Preaching and Teaching            Care for one another – in the community            Good Works            Missionary activity – to spread the faith and to care for those in need            Leadership and hierarchy</p>	<p>7 Sacraments            Confession            Stations of the Cross            Mass of the Lords Supper Holy Thursday            The Rosary            Praying to Mary &amp; the Saints – not worship of them            RCIA process            A world Leader – the Pope</p>

### ***Important to remember:***

Central to our Faith is belief in Jesus as the way to the Father, and the one in whom the truth about how to live can be found. We believe that faith is to be lived in community; we were not created to be individuals. The prayers and support of the community strengthen us, they are our companions on the journey to God. We come together for the Eucharistic as an expression of that belief and to receive Christ, the food for our spiritual journey.

We believe that faithfully following Jesus will lead us to eternal life. In *John 14:6* Jesus says, *'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'*

### ***What lies ahead:*** Further Enquiry Sessions

- What we believe - date, time & venue
- How we pray and worship - date, time & venue
- How our community lives - date, time & venue
- How we serve and minister – date, time & venue
- Discernment & Next steps – date, time & venue
- Rite of Acceptance & Welcome date, time & venue / Phase 2

### **Closing Prayer:**

The canonisation of Australia's first saint, Mary MacKillop October 17<sup>th</sup> 2010, was honoured in Sydney with a Harbour Bridge light display on the harbour, which included some of Mary MacKillop's favourite quotes, as shown below.

As we hear these words let us pray that we too can embrace their sentiments:

- "Whatever troubles may be before you, accept them cheerfully."
- "Do not be afraid. Love one another."
- "Let charity guide you in all your life."
- "Never see a need without doing something about it."

We give thanks and praise to God, for the gift of Mary MacKillop, through whom the Lord has indeed done marvellous things. May we share her courage and follow her example. Amen

Saint Mary of the Cross, **Pray for us**

