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## Stage 3

### Period of Purification and Enlightenment

This is a period of more intense learning and spiritual preparation for the reception of the sacraments of the Christian Initiation. This stage coincides with the six weeks of the Lenten period.

### Celebration of Sacraments of Initiation

The sacrament of Baptism (for those not baptized) and the Reception into full Communion with the Catholic Church (for those already baptized in another Christian tradition) the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist are celebrated at the Vigil Mass of Easter. They can however be celebrated at other times of the year.

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## Stage 4

### Period of Mystagogy

This is the post-baptismal/sacrament stage. It is a time for reflecting on the Paschal Mystery, the experience of initiation and it is a stage for entering more fully into the life and mission of the community.

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*“The RCIA programme has provided a warm welcome into the Church: a group of peers that have become friends, the opportunity to interact with Church leaders who have become trusted mentors, and a solid basis to take my own spiritual journey forward. Thank you.” — Liz*

*“RCIA has provided a safe, comfortable place where seeds of thought and belief have been able to sprout roots and grow strong.” — Gavin*

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## RCIA at St Patrick’s Cathedral

RCIA is the process by which the early Christians were initiated into the Church. This process was re-introduced into the Church in 1972 by the Bishops of the Second Vatican Council.

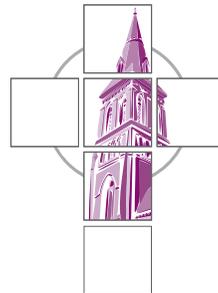
Whilst each person’s journey is individual, she/he is invited to explore her/his call with others who are also on the journey to discipleship with Jesus in the Catholic Church.

Because this journey is about Jesus’ call to follow Him, the sessions explore the Sunday Gospels so that participants may respond by developing a personal and life-long relationship with Jesus.

RCIA sessions at St Patrick’s Cathedral are held Thursday nights from 7pm — 8.30pm in Liston Hall, located in the brick building opposite the main doors of the Cathedral.

For further information, please contact:

**Sr Mary Neven, RSM:**  
(09) 303 4509  
or [mary@stpatricks.org.nz](mailto:mary@stpatricks.org.nz)



# Come, explore the Catholic faith.



**THE RITE OF  
CHRISTIAN INITIATION  
OF ADULTS (RCIA)**

**ST PATRICK’S CATHEDRAL, AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND**

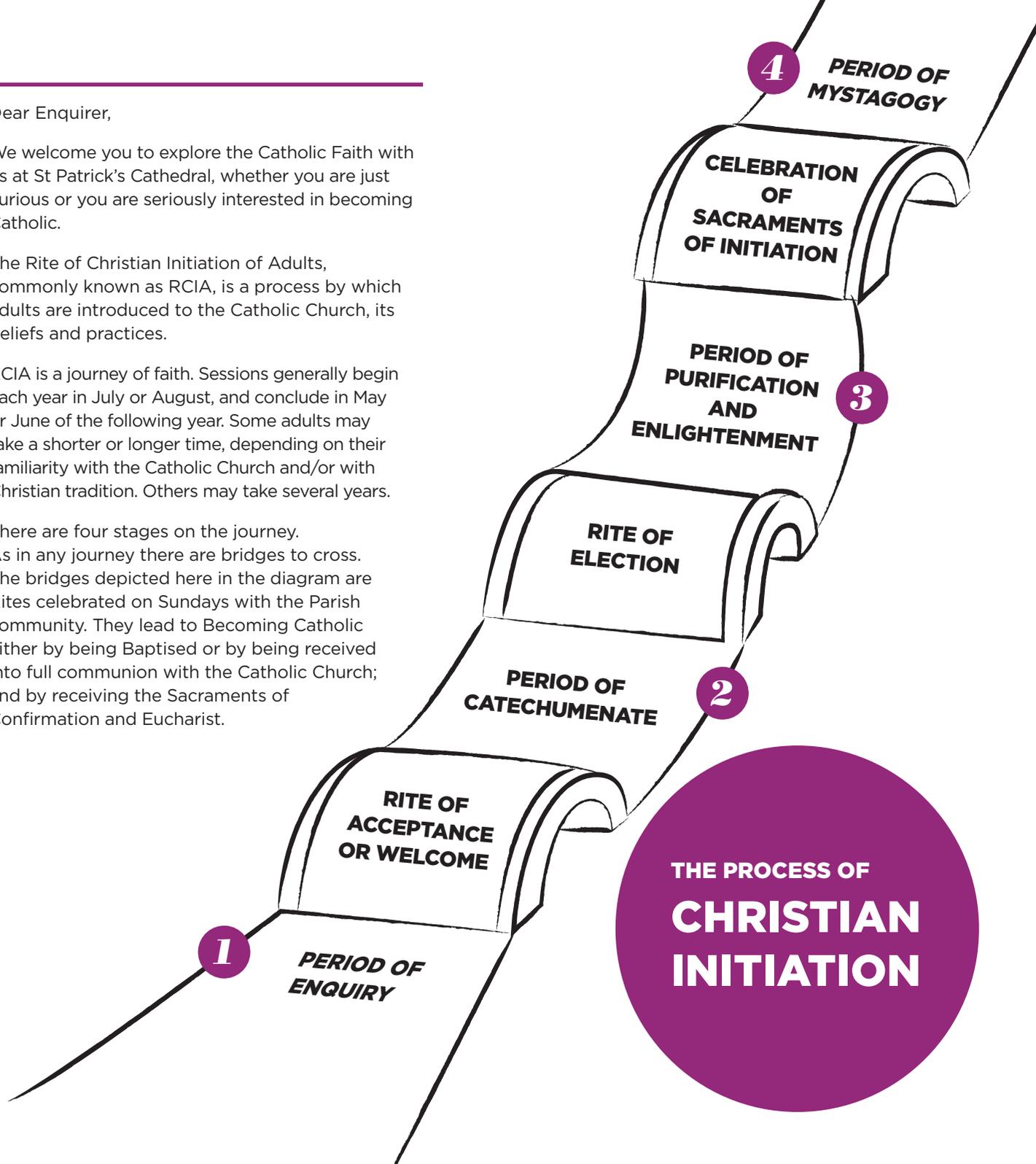
Dear Enquirer,

We welcome you to explore the Catholic Faith with us at St Patrick's Cathedral, whether you are just curious or you are seriously interested in becoming Catholic.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, commonly known as RCIA, is a process by which adults are introduced to the Catholic Church, its beliefs and practices.

RCIA is a journey of faith. Sessions generally begin each year in July or August, and conclude in May or June of the following year. Some adults may take a shorter or longer time, depending on their familiarity with the Catholic Church and/or with Christian tradition. Others may take several years.

There are four stages on the journey. As in any journey there are bridges to cross. The bridges depicted here in the diagram are Rites celebrated on Sundays with the Parish community. They lead to Becoming Catholic either by being Baptised or by being received into full communion with the Catholic Church; and by receiving the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.



## Stage 1

### Period of Enquiry

This is a time to explore and experience the life and faith in the Catholic Church. It is a period of searching for deeper meaning in life and the relevance of God in our daily lives. It generally lasts about six weeks.

### Rite of Welcome or Acceptance

This is the first bridge which marks the end of Stage 1, the Period of Enquiry, and leads into the Catechumenate period. Participants are welcomed formally into the Catholic Parish and community.

## Stage 2

### Period of Catechumenate

This is a time for the following:

- Growth in the spiritual life through personal, communal and liturgical prayer.
- Sharing in the life and service of the local parish community.
- Faith formation through the scripture and the Tradition of the Church.
- Witnessing to the Catholic faith.

This stage focuses on the Liturgical Year with emphasis on the Liturgy of the Word especially the Gospel of the following Sunday, and beliefs and practices of the Catholic Church.

### Rite of Election

This is the second bridge on the RCIA journey, which marks the end of Stage 2, the Catechumenate period, and leads to the beginning of Stage 3, the Period of Purification and Enlightenment. The Rite of Election is celebrated by the Bishop of the Diocese, Bishop Patrick Dunn, on the First Sunday of Lent.