

Christian Initiation Forum

RCIA AND SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION FOR CHILDREN

Background

The Second Vatican Council prescribed the revision of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA). This revision placed initiation at the heart of the Church's life, and therefore at the heart of parish life. The baptised are commissioned to proclaim the Good News and make disciples; to live in the world as Christ and to help those who seek meaning to know Jesus. Long before Pope Francis, the RCIA imagined the Catholic parish as a community of missionary disciples whose way of life revealed Jesus through its commitment to communion and mission. Indeed in the initial excitement about the revised RCIA, the thinking and reflecting Church could not imagine a parish without a vibrant RCIA.

The ministry of Christian Initiation finds its home with the Diocesan Liturgy Council (DLC) and Office. The Christian Initiation Forum has been established by the DLC to shepherd this ministry according to the vision, principles and process of the RCIA.

Purpose

The purpose of this Forum is to:

- Grow in its knowledge and understanding of the RCIA
- Reimagine the Sacraments of Initiation of children through the lens of the RCIA
- Engage in ongoing contemplative dialogue with parish communities
- Provide a forum for all parish Christian Initiation ministers
- Engage in strategic planning to promote the growth of Christian Initiation in the diocese
- Be active members of the Christian Initiation Australia Network (CIAN) and grow relationships with Christian Initiation ministers from other dioceses
- Participate in national and state conferences and other formation opportunities
- Be alert to and support potential new members
- Provide Pastoral Guidance as deemed appropriate
- Ensure the preparation, celebration and review of diocesan events

Responsibility

The *Christian Initiation Forum* is the responsibility of the DLC and is accountable to it, initially, through the Diocesan Manager of Worship and Prayer.

Membership

The Forum will have at least four members and no more than eight. Included in this number will be members of the DLC who are appointed. Additional to this number will be the Diocesan Manager of Worship and Prayer.

The Forum will look to renewing its membership as appropriate. At these times the DLC will seek *Expressions of Interest* from members of the diocesan community. Some of the gifts, skills and capacities that are at the heart of this ministry include:

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- Faith, passion and commitment to the Christ's mission
- Contemplation
- 'Fire in the belly' for the ministry of initiation
- Love of and comfort in praying with scripture
- Capacity to talk about your faith story, your relationship with Jesus, your Catholic way of life
- Appreciation of the place of liturgy and ritual in Christian life and the Church
- Openness to studying and becoming familiar with the RCIA
- A heart, spirit and mind for accompanying parish communities
- Imagination
- Hospitality
- Readiness to engage in contemplative dialogue and theological reflection
- Creative, strategic and critical thinking and planning

Upon receiving *Expressions of Interest*, the DLC will discern with the Christian Initiation Forum, those whose gifts and skills will best complement the needs of the Forum. Members will be appointed by the DLC.

Term

Members will be appointed for a period of two years, with the possibility of renewal for a further two years. The term of an individual member may be extended by the DLC as appropriate to sustain the life and ministry of the Forum.

Organisation

Members will determine:

- a convenor
- the nature, frequency, time and venue for their gatherings
- the agenda and process to ensure the Forum achieves its purpose
- the manner of preparing agendas and minutes.

The Diocesan Manager of Worship and Prayer, and Administrative Support Officer will provide Admin Support to the Forum.

Christian Initiation will be included in the annual liturgy budget. Authorisation from the Diocesan Manager of Worship and Prayer is required prior to purchase or engagement of service.

Contact

For further information please contact:

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