



Catholic Enquiry Centre Newsletter

*The Catholic Enquiry Centre is a work of the National Centre for Evangelisation,
an agency of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference*

FROM THE DIRECTOR



Winter greetings from the Catholic Enquiry Centre (CEC). Thank you for the donations and support we have received during the first half of 2022. We are also very grateful to a long-time

supporter of the CEC who remembered us in a bequest. These funds will support a major evangelisation initiative our team is currently undertaking.

An important task of the CEC is to support people who are contemplating becoming

a Catholic. While we can support them with resources and respond to queries, it is very important that we link the enquirer with a Catholic parish. Hopefully, these people will go on to participate in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) process. If you have ever been involved in this process, you will know what a great joy it is to accompany people as they come to learn and love Jesus and the Catholic faith. To support parishes in their RCIA process we have produced three articles on this topic. A summary and link to those articles can be found in this newsletter.

The National Centre for Evangelisation is hosting a major online conference

this October. The details can be found below. We encourage you to register for this conference, and to invite others in your faith community also. This conference will provide a great opportunity for parishioners to come together locally, as well as to learn, share and be inspired in their faith.

Thank you once again for your support. Stay safe and well during this cold, flu and ongoing COVID-19 season.

God bless.

Malcolm Hart

Director

National Centre for Evangelisation

OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROPOSE THE FAITH AND JOURNEY WITH NEW CATHOLICS

Over the last six months our resource, *The Bridge*, has featured three articles on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). In writing these articles we hoped to raise the profile of the RCIA process and to provide some practical guidance on how to establish or revitalise this ministry in parishes.

As supporters of the Catholic Enquiry Centre, you might find it helpful to know that in the most recent statistics provided to the Vatican (2020), Australian parishes welcomed 3,686 adults to the Catholic faith. There were 20,541 infants baptised in that year as well (Statistical Yearbook of the Church). These statistics provide hope for the future of God's family, but they may also prompt questions about how we nurture these new Catholics and are we, as a Church, missing opportunities to propose the faith to others. These are good questions.

The first article, 'The RCIA process in your parish', focused on what the RCIA is and asked the reader to consider the "health"



of the process in their parish. The second article, 'Thinking about conversion in the RCIA process', concentrated on what conversion looks like and how to ascertain if a person is ready to be fully initiated. The last article, 'The RCIA Process: A responsibility of all the baptised', considered the responsibility of the baptised. As many of you know, too often people shy away from their responsibility to share the faith, leaving it to the priest and a few people on the RCIA team. This can be understandable as many people feel they are not confident or competent to speak about their faith. However, with some planning and careful thought there are many ways we can all be involved in the task of evangelisation and the conversion of hearts to Jesus.

The articles can be found via [The Bridge](http://www.nce.catholic.org.au/the-bridge) page (www.nce.catholic.org.au/the-bridge) on the National Centre for Evangelisation website. If you would like us to email you the direct links, please contact us on info@catholicenquiry.com.

Got questions about
the **God, Jesus,**
Catholic Faith?



*Please send me, without obligation,
a free book about the Catholic Faith.*

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Catholic Enquiry Centre
Reaching out in faith
Australian Catholic Bishops Conference

CAN YOU HELP US ADVERTISE THE CATHOLIC ENQUIRY CENTRE?

A number of parishes have found it helpful to leave flyers about the CEC in the foyer of their Church. Also, if your local school is open to the idea, the flyers would work very well in their foyer or wherever parents might gather. The flyers are the size of a bookmark and provide details on how to obtain a free copy of *Call and Response: An introduction to the Catholic faith*. We can send you a bundle of 20 or 50 flyers (until stocks last) for free. Please email us your postal address at info@catholicenquiry.com.

A NEW RESOURCE ON THE HORIZON

Thanks to the generous support of our donors, we are well on the way to publishing a new resource. The working title, *Discovering God and what it means to be Catholic*, is due to be released later this year. The intended audience of the book is primarily people who have little or no understanding of God or the Catholic faith. We believe it will be a handy resource for parishes to put into the hands of people enquiring about becoming a Catholic, as well as senior high school students and those working in Catholic agencies who want to have an understanding of what it means to be Catholic. We look forward to updating you about this resource in the November edition of this newsletter.



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evangelise

www.evangelisation.catholic.org.au

RE-CONNECTING WITH OUR ENQUIRERS

As many of you are aware, your donations allow us to give away free books about the Catholic faith to enquirers. Each year we try to reconnect with these enquirers to see how they found the resource and if they have further questions. Some of the responses can be a little disheartening, especially when they indicate that they contacted the local parish to discuss becoming a Catholic, and no one responded to their call. However, the majority are very positive. One person responded advising they had been away from the practice of the faith and now, having read the book, were taking steps to return to Mass. This is what one person wrote:

"I am a Catholic who moved to Canberra from the Philippines together with my sister more than two years ago.

We have already found a very supportive parish community in Weston Creek and the request for a copy of the Call and Response book is to supplement our limited understanding of our faith though we've been raised and schooled as Catholics. Because of worldly distractions, i.e. careers, money, success, titles, societal pressures, we sometimes become off track on how we lead and live our lives. Your book serves as a good reminder. It is always good to have spiritual books that we can refer to whenever possible." Carmela

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians who have walked upon and cared for this land for thousands of years. We acknowledge the continued deep spiritual attachment and relationship of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to this country and commit ourselves to the ongoing journey of reconciliation.

*Coming Soon image: Freepik.com. This newsletter has been designed using images from Freepik.com. Donations can be made by completing the attached slip, or online via our [website](http://www.catholicenquiry.com).

The NCE resource, *The Bridge*, is now available online at <https://bit.ly/3d3hZ24>

To receive the CEC Newsletter electronically, subscribe at <https://bit.ly/2YLzXIF>

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