

## PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

*Come Holy Spirit of Life  
brood over our precious planet:  
inspire us to live in peace  
and harmony with each other.*

*Come Holy Spirit of Love  
inscribe compassion on our hearts:  
open our eyes, ears and hearts  
to the cries of those who suffer.*

*Come Holy Spirit of Energy  
draw us into the wonder of creation:  
stir us within us a desire  
to live simply  
so future generations will enjoy  
God's creation.*

*Come Holy Spirit of Creativity  
nurture our talents, gifts and  
potential:  
affirm us in the work we do each day;  
show us how we do make a  
difference.*

*Come Holy Spirit of Joy  
fill our lives with renewed hope:  
give us generous and courageous  
hearts;  
encourage us to care for one another.*

## UPPER Mt GRAVATT WISHART CATHOLIC PARISH PARISH OFFICE

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## UPPER Mt GRAVATT WISHART CATHOLIC PARISH



**ST BERNARD'S CHURCH  
UPPER Mt GRAVATT**

**ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH,  
WISHART**

**ST MARTIN'S CHURCH,  
EIGHT MILE PLAINS**

# RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

## THE JOURNEY OF THE RCIA

Our parish places a great deal of energy and emphasis on welcoming those who seek to be initiated into the Catholic Church.

RCIA is based on welcoming and forming strong relationships for the whole family of those preparing for the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the reception of First Holy Communion at Mass. The whole community celebrates each of the steps along the way. In our parish there are **four 'stages'** each marked with a **ritual 'step'** to celebrate the transition to the next stage.

**First Stage:** Called the *Pre-catechumenate* or Period of Evangelization, this is the time in which the inquirer's own questions form the basis of formation.



**First Ritual Step:** Once initial conversion is experienced, the unbaptised inquirers are accepted into the Church as catechumens with a public rite called *Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens*.

**Second Stage:** The longest period of **formation or catechesis** now takes place. The catechumen participates in the life of the believing community particularly by celebrations of the Liturgy of the Word on Sundays.



**Second Ritual Step:** This is called the *Rite of Election or Enrolment of Names*. Through this Rite the Church acknowledges that God has selected the catechumen for full initiation at the Easter Vigil.

**Third Stage:** This is called the **Period of Purification and Enlightenment** and takes place during Lent marked by three community celebrations called Scrutinies which ask God for healing and forgiveness for the elect (now the new title for the catechumens). These scrutinies coincide with the 3rd, 4th and 5th Sundays of Lent.



**Third Ritual Step:** Now comes the most important of all the transitional rites, when the elect are fully incorporated into Christ and the Church by Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

**Fourth Stage:** This is an important period of reflection by the newly initiated with their faith community during the season of Easter. They reflect on the significance of the Easter sacraments, especially by their weekly participation in the Eucharist, meditating on God's word and participating in the life and mission of the parish.



## WHAT ARE THE SACRAMENTS?

### Sacraments of Initiation

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Eucharist



### Sacraments of Healing

- Penance
- Anointing of the Sick

### Sacraments of Commitment

- Marriage
- Holy Orders

## But what if someone is already baptised and wants to become a Catholic?

Because the RCIA is such a rich process it is often adapted to include people already baptised into another Christian denomination who wish to become Catholics. We call this other group "candidates for full communion".

As they are already Christian, it is a process of welcome and apprenticeship in being Catholic. When discerned they are ready for reception into the Catholic Faith they are Confirmed and receive Eucharist with the Catholic community.

