

JOINING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

Over the past year, Rachel Brown and Kate Sewell have been travelling the path of joining the Catholic Church where it culminated to them becoming full Catholics at Easter this year. Here you can read short profiles of these two new members of the St Pius X Parish West Warrnambool family who talk about their journey in becoming catholic.

RACHEL BROWN:

How did your journey first begin??

I was married at St Joseph's Church here in Warrnambool and although had not been a person of faith, really felt a connection to the Church. My husband Nathan grew up part of this parish and my grandparents were married at St Joseph's. When we had children we agreed they would be baptised. When our third child was baptised I felt it was the right time to consider joining the Church. I felt a desire to be part of the Catholic Community and two years later I am here undertaking the RCIA with a great friend, Kate.



L – R: Rachel Brown, Fr Michael Linehan and Kate Sewell

What or who was your inspiration??

A few people have been inspiring along the way. My grandparents, my dad, my husband, my children and my work colleagues.

Who have been your greatest supports along the way??

My family of course, but Fr Michael has been phenomenal. He is an amazingly intelligent and caring person full of great insight. My sponsor, Joan Guinan, has also been a great support. She has taught me a lot about what it means to be a member of the Catholic Church and the Faith.

What were you most looking forward to on the journey??

The Easter Vigil!! And continuing to share my journey with my children.

Tell us what your most pivotal/important faith experience is so far??

The sacrament of marriage, my children's baptisms, undertaking the RCIA, teaching Religion in the classroom. They've all been important experiences that have lead me to where I am.

KATE SEWELL:

How did your journey first begin??

I requested to go to church as a child even though our family didn't attend. I enjoyed the singing and it just made me feel good. My mum would organise me a ride and off I went. I would pray mostly if I was frightened.

Later in my teens, one of my good friends was searching for a spiritual group to belong to, so I volunteered to go along with her to experience the different ceremonies and gatherings. We would discuss them afterwards and that was a really interesting and broadening experience for me.

I went to Aquinas College to study teaching and felt loved and cared for.

When I first came to St Pius X Primary School, I felt there was something really special here. I felt connected to the other teachers and wanted to be part of that. I have two daughters, Matilda and Indigo, and I wanted this special feeling of belonging and community for them. I felt that we shared the outlook and values that I wanted to share with my children.

I made commitments to myself and God in Staff prayers and Liturgies, to further prayer and exploration, that took me further along the path.

What or who was your inspiration??

Definitely all the staff at St Pius X Primary School, who embraced and encouraged me from the beginning.

Who have been your greatest supports along the way??

Our whole parish was so welcoming from the very beginning. Father Michael has been an amazing support. I've learnt a lot from him from his wealth of knowledge and have enjoyed his stories he related. It has been wonderful to share this experience with Rachel Brown. Our sponsors, Sara Graham and Joan Guinan, have been caring and supportive. All of the parish members, who have come to our meetings have been so honest and shared their stories which has really enriched the experience for me.

What were you most looking forward to on the journey??

I couldn't wait to participate in the Eucharist to be part of Jesus' presence in the Mass.

Tell us what your most pivotal/important faith experience is so far??

The experience leading up to the sacraments on Easter Saturday, I believe, was my most pivotal faith experience.