



It takes a Village

BALLARAT DIOCESAN RCIA CONFERENCE

Friday, November 16, 2019
St Patrick's Cathedral Hall,
5 Lyons Street South, Ballarat,
5.30pm - 8.30pm

PROGRAM

MC - Audrey Brown, Director of Catholic Education, Diocese of Ballarat		
5.30pm	Registration (Light tea)	Sr Manuela Cabigas cssjb Diocesan RCIA & Sacramental Program Co-ordinator
6.15pm	Acknowledgement of Country	Dr Susan Crowe RCIA Team St Patrick's Cathedral Parish, Ballarat
6.20pm	Prayer	Fr Andrew Hayes Parish Priest, Immaculate Conception, Ararat
6.30pm	Welcome: Most Rev Paul Bird CSsR Bishop of Ballarat	
6.45pm	Armchair Discussion: RCIA in the Diocese of Ballarat What is RCIA in your experience? Facilitator: Ms Audrey Brown Panel: Ms Judith O'Sullivan, Pastoral Associate St Columba's Parish, Ballarat North	7.45pm Launch of the revised "Parish Handbook for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults" 7.50pm Discussion of the guidelines 8.15pm Blessing & Finish

Julie Kelly from Pauline Book will be present for all sessions with displays of books appropriate for RCIA





It takes a Village

VICTORIAN RCIA STATE CONFERENCE

Saturday, November 16, 2019
St Patrick's Cathedral Hall,
5 Lyons Street South, Ballarat,
8.30am - 4.30pm

PROGRAM

MC - Audrey Brown, Director of Catholic Education, Diocese of Ballarat

8.30am	Registration (Refreshments available for travellers)		Anthony Kilpatrick <i>How do we learn or come to faith?</i>
9.00am	Acknowledgement of Country	12.00noon	Lunch
9.05am	Prayer	12.45pm	Keynote 2: Sharon Brewer <i>Will they find joy?</i>
9.15am	Welcome: Most Rev Bishop Paul Bird CSsR Bishop of Ballarat	1.45pm	Breakout Sessions 2: Jacqui Guiliano <i>Come and See: Exploring the practicalities and possibilities of the RCIA for your context</i> Dr Julie Mitchell <i>Heart Wisdom</i>
9.30am	Keynote 1: Fr Dr Kevin Lenehan <i>Created for Community: Receiving the Grace of the Other</i>	2.45pm	15 minute break
10.30am	Morning Tea	3.00pm	Acknowledgements Bishop Paul & Dr Susan Crowe
11.00am	Breakout Sessions 1: Mandy Robinson: <i>RCIA for children in your Village</i> Mary Anne Payne: <i>Don't miss the Dismissals</i>	3.15pm	Final Prayer
		3.30pm	Finish

Julie Kelly from Pauline Books will be present for all sessions with displays of books appropriate for RCIA

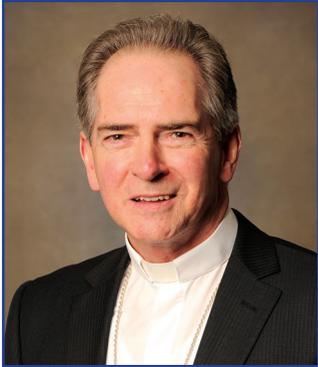


CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF SALE



CATHOLIC DIOCESE
OF SANDHURST

Welcome to the Conference from Bishop Paul Bird CSSR



Dear Conference Delegate,

It is a joy for me to welcome you to the RCIA conferences for our diocese of Ballarat and our state of Victoria.

We will be spending time together reflecting on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and on how to celebrate this rite fruitfully as we welcome new members into our local communities.

The theme for the conference is “It takes a Village...” Just as it takes a village to raise a child, so it takes a Christian community to fully foster the faith and life of someone becoming a member of the community.

May our time together bring us light to guide us as we respond to those enquiring about our Catholic faith. May our gathering encourage us as we accompany those seeking to grow in their faith and love and those celebrating the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

I hope you enjoy this conference.

May the Spirit be with us in abundance!

Yours in Christ,

Paul Bird CSSR
Bishop of Ballarat

Keynote 1 - Fr Kevin Lenehan

Created for Community: Receiving the Grace of the Other

The Sacraments of Christian Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist – embed our lives in the mystery of the crucified and risen Lord Jesus, by forming us as members of a concrete community of the church. This act looks back to humanity’s original creation in a relationship of love and friendship with God, other people and the cosmos. And it looks forward to the communion of all creation, human and non-human, in the eternal glory of Christ. In the meantime, as members of the church, we learn to receive the grace of the other, in experiences of hurt and alienation as well as experiences of reconciliation and healing. In this way, we become a sign of God’s saving love at work in the world.



Fr Dr Kevin Lenehan is a priest of the Catholic Diocese of Ballarat. He has recently been appointed as Master at Catholic Theological College Melbourne, a college of the University of Divinity. He holds degrees from Monash University, Melbourne College of Divinity and the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. Kevin teaches and researches in the areas of fundamental theology, theological anthropology and religious education. He is a regular contributor in faith formation and adult religious education, as well as liturgical ministry in parishes. He has previously held appointments in youth ministry, pastoral ministry and leadership in Catholic Education.

Keynote 2 - Sharon Brewer

Will they find joy?

In *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis writes, “One of the more serious temptations which stifles boldness and zeal is a defeatism which turns us into querulous and disillusioned pessimists, ‘sourpusses’” (#85). What an evocative word! Sourpuss! Yet, with the scandals that have taken place in our Catholic Church, as well as persecution of Christians here and abroad, there does feel, at times, little to smile about. Many of us would also have to admit that it is hard to speak of our Church in a positive light, especially when speaking with non-Catholics or those who have left the faith. And, to speak openly of our relationship with Jesus, quite frankly leaves many of us feeling very awkward. So if neither our faces nor our words indicate the hope to which Christ calls us to, how will those who are searching for God be enticed to take a look at our Catholic faith? Sharon’s presentation will delve into the challenges and opportunities of making our Church a joyful one. Sharon will use the six themes that have been put forward by the Plenary Council as a framework to guide the presentation.



Sharon works for the National Centre for Evangelisation (NCE), an agency of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. One of Sharon’s tasks is to respond to the enquiries that come to the Catholic Enquiry Centre, which is a major work of the NCE. She is Chair of the Christian Initiation Australia Network. Prior to working for the ACBC she worked as the Parish Pastoral Support Coordinator for the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn. And, prior to a short stint with the Attorney General’s Department, she worked for many years as Sacramental Coordinator for her parish. Sharon and her husband live in Canberra and have four adult children and one gorgeous grandchild. Outside of work Sharon spends most of her time doing ‘family stuff’, and is a committed member of her local parish.

Breakout Sessions 1

RCIA for children in your Village

How do we start? How long will it take? What is the difference between a baptism program and the Rite of Christian Initiation (of Adults), adapted for children? So many questions bubble in a community when children, who are no longer infants, approach a parish. In this workshop we will explore how to create a whole parish experience with these families, seeking to join the Church. Rites, catechetical sessions, Children’s Liturgy of the Word and parish liturgies can all be adapted in ways which can evangelise the whole family and enliven a community.

Mandy Robinson, from the Archdiocese of Melbourne, has over thirty years’ experience with the RCIA, in parishes in both Australia and New Zealand. Working as parish RCIA coordinator and catechist, her passion is the development of faith in children, along with their families. A contributor to various diocesan resources, including “A Parish Experience: Adapting the RCIA for children” for families with unbaptised, primary school aged children, emphasising the use of the Children’s Liturgy of the Word as a model. Mandy is also currently treasurer of the Christian Initiation Australia Network.

Don’t dismiss the Dismissals!

The Rite recommends Dismissals yet many parishes hold back, hesitating to include this enrichment in their RCIA process. This workshop will explore the who, what, where, when, why and how of Dismissals. Practical pastoral strategies to ease the implementation of Dismissals and extend parishioner involvement in Catechist and hospitality roles will be shared. Dismissals afford the worshipping community the privilege of witnessing Catechumens being nourished by God’s Word in a special way and the opportunity to relate the ‘Good News’ of the Gospels to their faith journeys. As their yearning to be nourished by the Bread of Life grows, the parish family joins them in looking forward to the day when they will be welcomed to the Eucharistic table for the first time. Catechetical resources will be recommended.

Mary Ann Payne is originally from the USA and has lived in Melbourne for 43 years and coordinated RCIA in her parish, Our Lady of the Pines, Donvale since 2005. A familiar presence at local, state and national RCIA Conferences, Mary Ann has served on the Melbourne RCIA Leadership Forum and is a student at the Catholic Theological College, having completed 25 units of study since her retirement from the Catholic Development Fund in 2008. She actively liaises with other RCIA groups both in Australia and the USA.

How do we learn or come to faith?

How do we learn or come to faith? If this is true for us then it must be true for those in our RCIA process. There is a need in the RCIA process to understand how people - including ourselves come to or learn about faith. When I began pastoral ministry, I would often read from a text someone else's words until gradually, with the support of good mentors and friends, I began to share my own faith story, my own experience of God. Things started to change and my connection and impact on others grew immensely. These things are important - I must know my own story of faith, I must know my God, and then I must trust it and have the courage to share it. The Holy Spirit walks closely with me. Experiences of God working with our faith are so valuable and need to be shared in the right setting. RCIA is such a setting. This breakout session will take us to showing others what living your faith in the world looks and feels like.

Anthony Kilmartin is a Pastoral Associate at St Brendan's Parish, Shepparton and is also involved in Aged Care. He says that he never thought that he would be involved in pastoral care, but due to many changes in his life where he believes that his faith and an understanding of who God was for him, led him along a new path. Anthony was always involved in parish life, but a time of mental illness changed his life as a dairy farmer with six children. This period, while being the most difficult, made him reassess his life. Anthony says that, "God took me down a new path, leading me through the wilderness and out the other side". Anthony went back to study and a period of big changes in his working life followed. He says, "God can do great things".

Breakout Sessions 2

Come and See: Exploring the practicalities and possibilities of the RCIA for your context

This workshop will provide participants with an overview of the RCIA, roles and responsibilities of team members and a focus on the practicalities and possibilities including preparation, promotion and planning for RCIA in your context. It will encourage you to view yourselves as an 'RCIA parish' rather than a parish with an RCIA. The workshop is suitable for those new or exploring what the RCIA offers, as well as those wishing to revisit and audit their current practice with fresh eyes.

Jacqui Giuliano is the Coordinator: Parish Leadership Formation, which includes the Secretariat for Lay Ecclesial Ministry, in the Archbishop's Office for Evangelisation, Archdiocese of Melbourne. She was previously a Parish Pastoral Associate and is passionate about responding to, and bringing to life, our baptismal call through a spirit of mission. Providing formation and networking for RCIA coordinators and team members is a welcome part of her role.

Heart Wisdom

In this workshop you will hear about and experience an approach to spirituality - 'heart wisdom' - which seeks to be attentive and responsive to a person's interior experience thus opening mind, body and spirit to the enabling grace of God. 'Heart wisdom' seeks to help a person grow in relationship with God as Mystery in all things, at the same time as nurturing a deepening personal sense of identity, vocation and mission.

Dr Julie Mitchell PhD is a spiritual director and lecturer in Education in the Melbourne Graduate School of Education at the University of Melbourne. She was formed as a spiritual director in the Ignatian tradition at Kardia Formation, a spirituality centre in Melbourne.

The Sacramental Theology of the RCIA

Catholic Theological College Melbourne offers this course in 2020 on a Tuesday from 10.00am - 1.00pm

Semester 1:

The history and development of the RCIA - July 28
The images of the RCIA - August 4
Conversion: Its meaning, role and process within the RCIA - August 11
Initiation of children - August 18
The theology of the Church and its ministries - August 25
Candidates and catechumens - September 1

The theology of the Rites - September 8
The role of the Word of God - September 15

Semester 2:

The central role of Catechesis - October 6
The relationship between Baptism and Confirmation - October 13
Eucharist as the source and summit - October 20
The role of the community - October 27