
RCIA

It is with heartfelt joy that I welcome you to the 2025/26 Linked Parishes Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program. This journey offers a guiding path as you explore and deepen your relationship with the Catholic faith.

Over the coming months, we will embark on a shared journey through the rich tapestry of Catholicism. Together, we will uncover the beauty of its traditions, sacraments, and teachings, which have inspired and sustained believers for generations. This program is more than an educational series—it is a communal and spiritual experience. Through meaningful discussions, questions, and reflections, we will explore the depth and breadth of our faith.

Whether you are taking your first steps in Catholicism, seeking to complete your initiation sacraments, or yearning to strengthen your connection to God, this is a place of discovery, reflection, and support. The RCIA program is not just an opportunity for personal growth but also a celebration of the diverse journeys that have brought each of you here. May this experience inspire and transform you in ways that draw you closer to God.

It is my privilege to walk alongside you as we seek truth, deepen our faith, and grow in communion with Our Lord.

With prayerful best wishes,



Fr Martin Hardy



The Holy Name, Our Lady
Immaculate & St Augustine of
Canterbury Linked Parishes

Website:
Email:
Phone:

www.chelmsfordcatholic.co.uk
office@chelmsfordcatholic.co.uk
01245 352898

"Come to me, all you who are weary and find life burdensome, and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon your shoulders and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart. Your souls will find rest, for my yoke is easy and my burden light."
Matthew 11:28-30

Sessions take place in the St Augustine Church Hall between 7:30pm and 9pm unless otherwise stated.

SESSION 1

9th October 2025

Introductory Session

SESSION 2 (7pm At New Hall The Barn)

6th November 2025

What is distinctive about Matthews Gospel 1 (Jesus)

SESSION 3 (7pm At New Hall The Barn)

13th November 2025

What is distinctive about Matthews Gospel 2 (Bible)

SESSION 4 (7pm At New Hall The Barn)

20th November 2025

The Parable of the Labourers (Faith and surprises)

SESSION 5 (7pm At New Hall The Barn)

27th November 2025

Matthew's interpretation of Easter Day (God)

SESSION 6

4th December 2025

What is the Church and its role in our lives?

SESSION 7

8th January 2026

What is the meaning of Mass?

SESSION 8

15th January 2026

What what are the Sacraments and why do they matter?

SESSION 9

22nd January 2026

What is sin and forgiveness in Catholicism?



"Just as by melting two candles together you **get one piece of wax**, so, I think one who receives the flesh and blood of Jesus is **fused together with him**, and the soul finds that he is Christ and Christ in him.

St Cyril of Jerusalem 315-386 A.D.

SESSION 10

29th January 2026

What role does Prayer play in Catholic life?

SESSION 11

5th February 2026

Who is Mary and what are the roles of the Saints?

SESSION 12

12th February 2026

What is the meaning of this life and what is the Catholic vision of the afterlife?

SESSION 13

26th February 2026

What is a Catholic moral and ethical framework and how does the Church address social issues?

SESSION 14

5th March 2026

What is the meaning of vocation?

SESSION 15

12th March 2026

What is the community of the Church?

SESSION 16

19th March 2026

What is the Sacrament of reconciliation?

SESSION 17

26th March 2026

What does Holy Week teach us about how to live?

SESSION 18

2nd April 2026

Final questions and preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation

Recommended resources:

Websites and Apps:

www.wordonfire.org

www.youtube.com/@AscensionPresents

www.sycamore.fm/

www.universalis.com (also available as an app)

Books:

The Bible. The New Revised Standard Version is a faithful and accurate Bible translation suitable for study and private prayer. There is a Catholic edition available for the NRSV. The New Jerusalem Bible is a popular translation because of its style and excellent footnotes.

Catechism of the Catholic Church (Also available on the Vatican Website)

General reading :

"Catholicism: A Very Short Introduction"	Gerald O'Collins SJ
"God Matters",	Herbert McCabe
"Introduction to Catholicism"	Joseph Ratzinger
"The Lamb's Supper"	Scott Hahn
"The Name of God is Mercy"	Pope Francis
"The Essence of Prayer"	Ruth Burrows OCD

Heavenly Father, you call us to relationship with you through the death and resurrection of your Son, and the guidance of your Holy Spirit. Open our minds and hearts as we journey through this RCLA program, that we may deepen our faith in you, our hope for eternal life, and our love for you and our neighbour.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.