

**AUSTRALIAN CATECHUMENATE NETWORK  
NATIONAL CONFERENCE  
2014**

*Celebrating Initiation*  
**RCIA in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**Mary Ryan  
Engaging Faith**

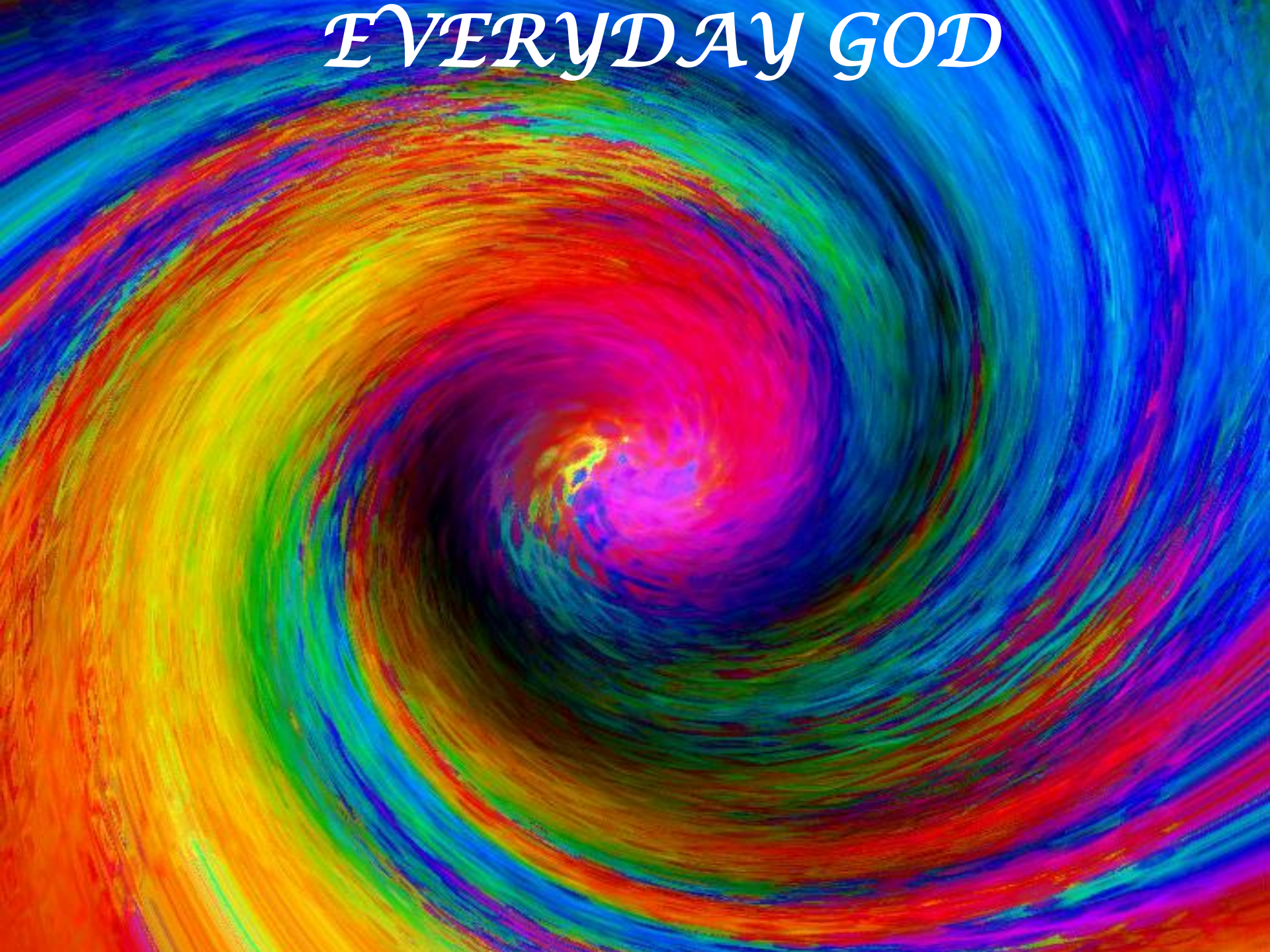
# *HIGH SPIRITS - RCIC*

*RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR CHILDREN  
...a pathway into the Catholic Church  
community*



*“This has been a fantastic journey for our family and it has given all of us a greater sense of belonging both to the parish and the wider church...thank you all for such a fantastic journey” RCIC parent*

# *EVERYDAY GOD*





- July through to Pentecost (May)
- As a family together with other families...
- Within a faith community

*While the whole Christian community is responsible for the initiation of children the RCIA speaks about the parents or guardians and the children's companions as being the child's central experience of being Church (RCIA #242 & 244.2)*

# Sacrament of BAPTISM

- Usually at the request of Catholic parents for their baby/child
- According to local geographic boundaries ie: Nth Ringwood, Croydon Hills, Warranwood, Wonga Park





# rites & sacraments

# COME AND SEE

(Period of Inquiry)

Term 3 2013: July...

Tuesday evenings at 6/6.30 -7-7.30pm \*\*\*

Sunday morning @ 9.15 -10.15am \*\*

Saturday afternoon at 4.30-5.30pm \*

- Home visits over the first few weeks
- Regular mass attendance
- Jesus Feast - 'Welcome in' family meal at the Parish House

Weeks 1,3,5,7,9+Family Meal





# Catechumenate...

## Term 4:

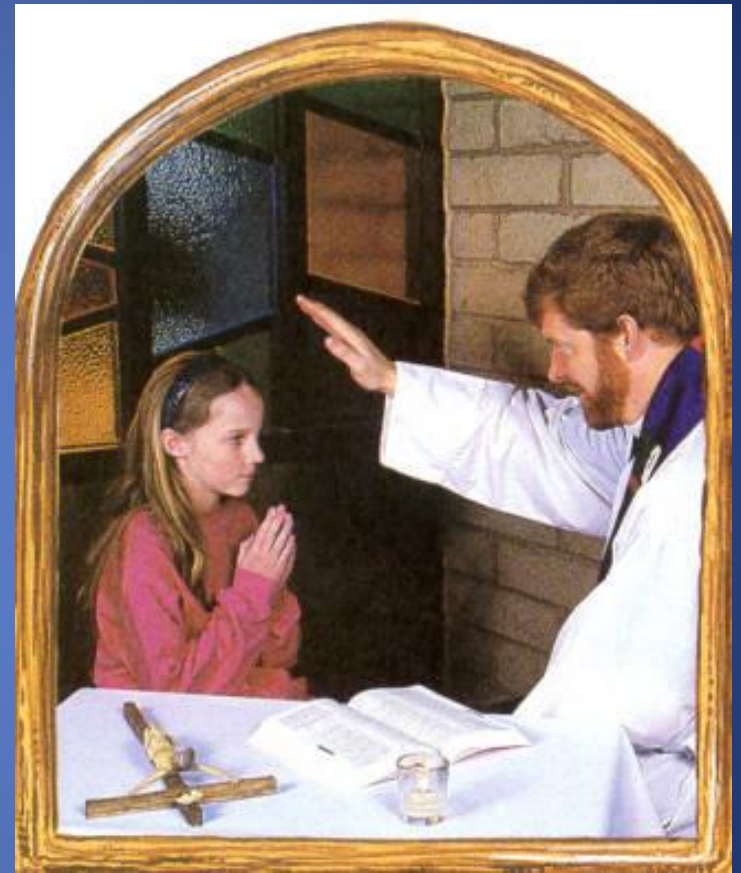
Week 1:

Week 2: Parent Info  
night for Reconciliation

Week 3: Parent/Child  
Workshop 1

Week 4: Parent/Child  
Workshop 2

Week 5: Sacrament of  
Reconciliation



Weeks 8 & 9:

RITE OF ACCEPTANCE Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Dec

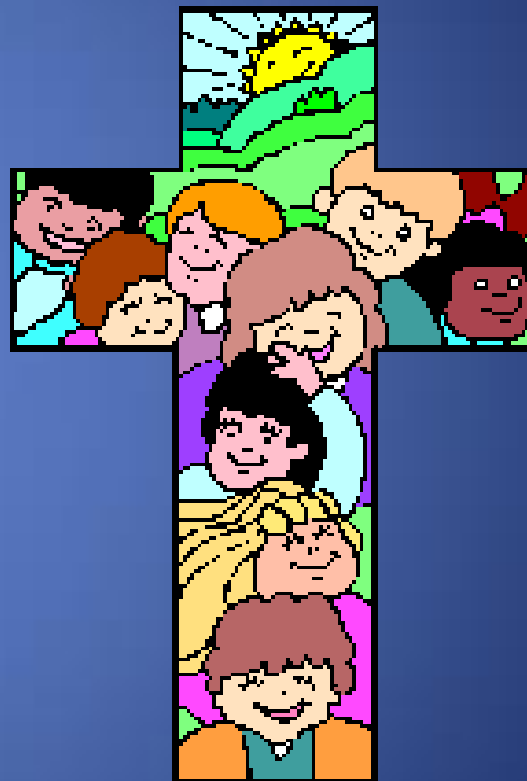


# *Song of Blessing*

May the Lord bless them  
All the days of their lives  
Bless them lovingly  
All the days of their lives

# Invitation & Participation in Special Events/Celebration Masses

- Parish Fete
- Parish Community  
Mass & Dinner
- Carols by Candle light
- Christmas Masses



Term 1 2014:

# LENT TO EASTER

(Purification & Enlightenment)

Week 3:  
+ Ash Wednesday

Week 4:

Week 5:

Week 6:



lent

Week 7:  
+ RITE OF  
ELECTION  
@St Patrick's  
Cathedral



Week 8:

Week 9:

Week 10:

Holy Week

Easter Sunday



Term 2:

Week 1:

+ Rite of Reception on 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> April

# RECEPTION INTO THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Sacraments of Initiation...

Baptism



Eucharist

Confirmation



# POST EASTER

Mystagogy

Term 2:

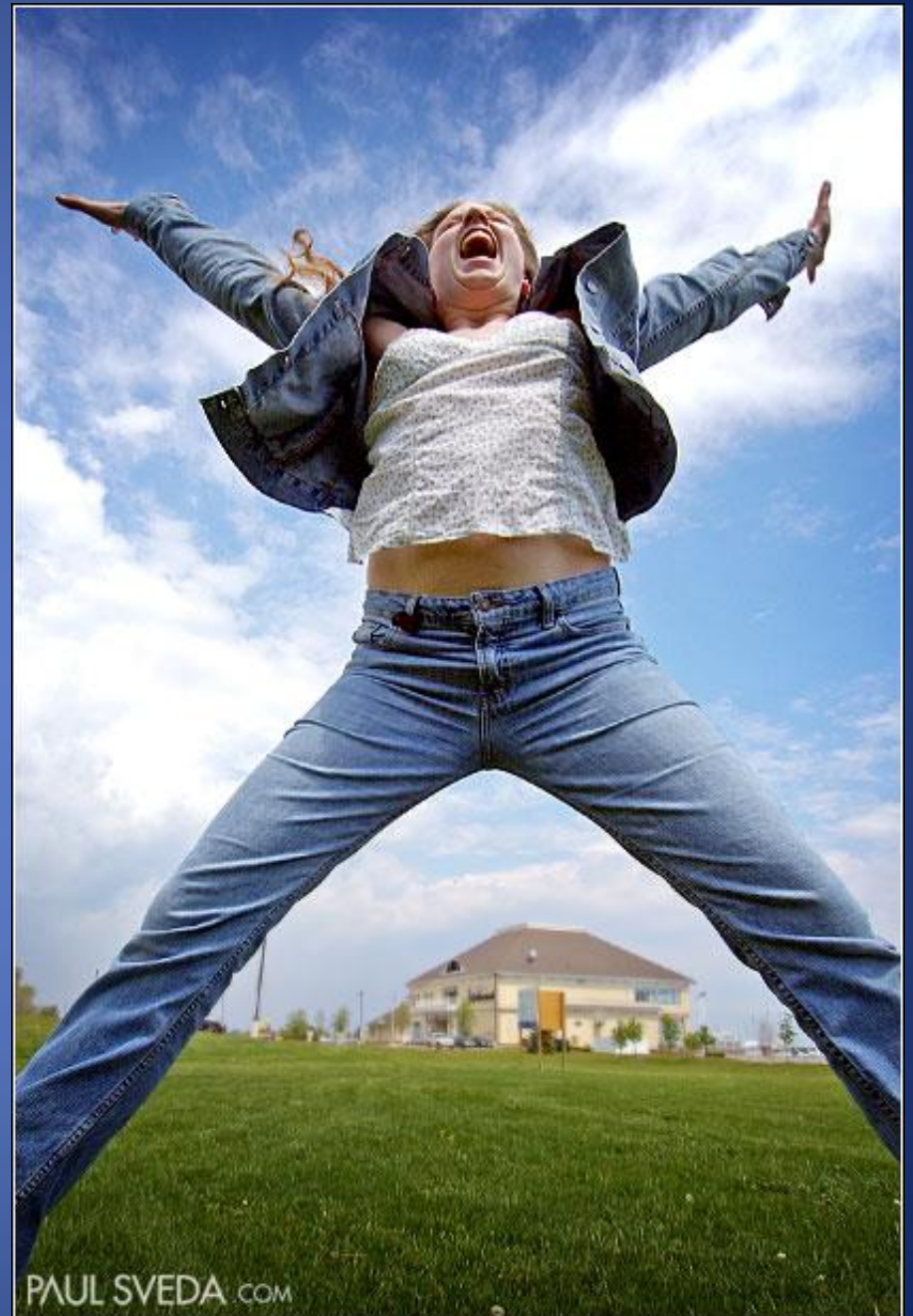
Week 2:

Week 6:

Week 7: RCIC

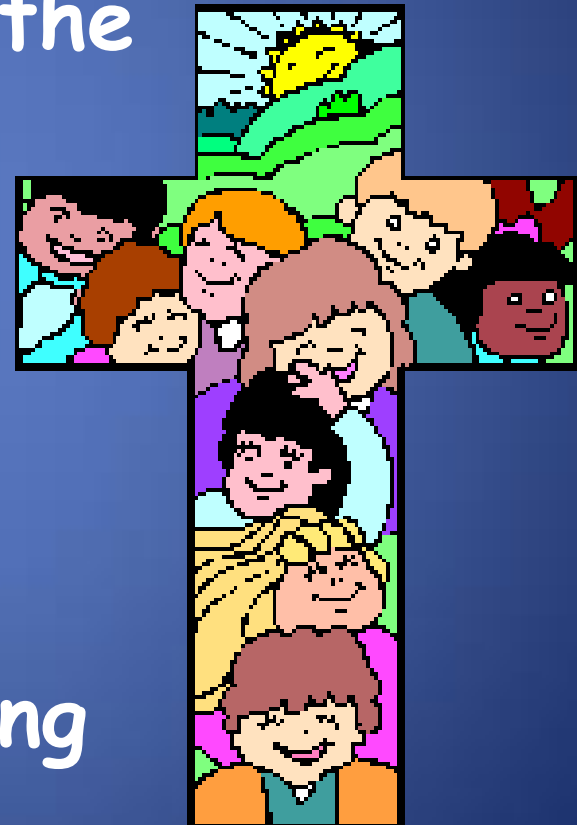
Break-up celebration!  
+ Pentecost Sunday

Ongoing contact...



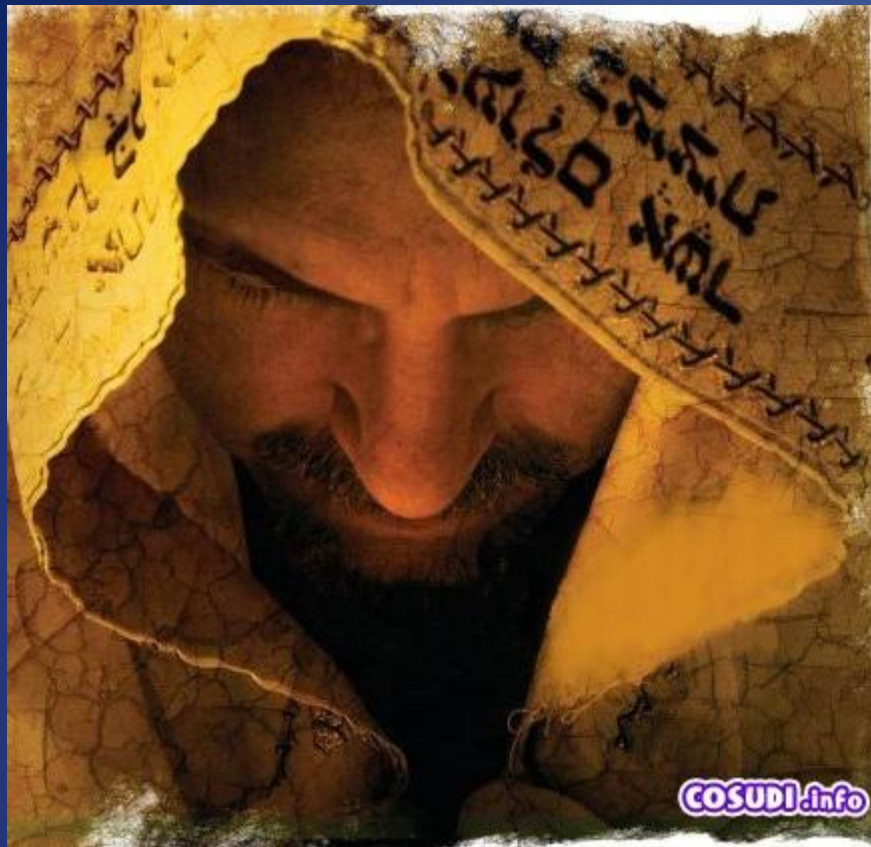
# CHILDREN'S LITURGY

- Each Saturday night and Sunday morning mass of the school term
- Prep to Grade 4
- Mass books/bible stories also available to use during mass



# Prayer and Meditation





# The Gospels



# Picnic Rug Mass



# The loaves & fishes!



# Sharing a communal meal...



# GOSPEL: The Story of Zacchaeus

**Reader:** A man named Zacchaeus lived in the city of Jericho. He collected tax money from people. Tax money is what people pay to run their country. Zacchaeus was not fair. He took more money than he was supposed to. Most people didn't like Zacchaeus at all

**Chorus:** Not at all! Not happy Zacc!

**Reader:** All of Jericho was excited. They'd heard that Jesus was coming to their city.

**Chorus:** We want Jesus! We want Jesus!

**Reader: Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was a great man and wanted to see him too. But he had a little problem. In fact, being little was the problem. He was too short to see over the crowd.**

**Chorus: Bad luck Zacc, stay at the back!**

**Reader: Zacchaeus had an idea. He ran ahead of the crowd and climbed a big tree. ‘Now I am tall enough to see Jesus too.’”**

**Chorus: Zacc can spy from up on high.**

**Reader: Jesus came by the tree and looked up. He saw Zacchaeus out on a limb.**

**Jesus: Zacchaeus, hurry and come down.  
I want to go to your house today.**

**Chorus: Huh? What's going on? Surely you can't  
be serious Jesus?**

**Reader: Zacchaeus climbed down very quickly.  
He was very excited. Jesus wanted to  
come to his house!**

**Zacchaeus: Wohoo! I can't believe it! Jesus picked  
me!**

**Reader: The people in the crowd were upset. They  
didn't think Jesus should be so kind to a  
dishonest man.**

**Chorus: Huh? What's going on? You must be joking. Not happy J!**

**Reader: At his house, Zacchaeus had a change of heart. He realized how much he had been missing the target. He decided to treat people fairly from now on. He told Jesus he would give half of his money to people who were poor.**

**Chorus: Good on you Zacc! Good for them!**

**Reader: Zacchaeus also wanted to give back four times the money that he had unfairly taken.**

**Chorus: Wohoo! Good on you Zacc. Good for us!  
We forgive you!**

**Reader: Jesus was pleased with Zacchaeus.**

**Jesus: “Today you and your whole household  
have entered God’s family.”**

**Reader: Just like Zacchaeus, we can also choose  
to do the right thing**

**Chorus: Yes we can! Yes we can!**

POPE FRANCIS...

'teachable moments'

*Why I believe..*

Douglas Talks Forgiveness

# *Pastoral challenges & opportunities*

- **Case study 1: Recently bereaved family**
- **Case study 2: Non-Catholic parents seeking Baptism for their daughter**
- **Case study 3: Recently separated/estranged family**



# Make time to review...seek feedback

## Parents comments on the Rites...

*“Ella saw these as important stepping stones in her quest – they made her feel like she was achieving something significant” Simon*

*“It gave Patrick & Abbey an insight into the broader church family” John*

*“They all came together making the journey very important and each step an important stepping stone’  
Lainey*

# Children:

• A - Agree



• U - Not sure



• D - Disagree



1. I enjoyed the sessions we had together in the Parish House & Chapel ... 6 x  1 x 

2. I have learnt new things about Jesus and our Church... 6 x  1 x 

3. I'm glad my parents/grandparents were with me during the RCIC journey. 7 x 

4. I have learnt new ways to talk to God and Jesus in prayer. 2 x  4 x  1 x 

5. The Rite of Election in at the Cathedral was interesting.



6. I enjoy going to Children's Liturgy.



7. I like going to Mass.



8. Receiving the Sacraments has helped feel like I belong to God's family, the Church, in a special way.

6 x  1 x 

9. I now know Jesus is my friend and I feel closer to him.

5 x  2 x 

10. I have felt welcomed and accepted in Holy Spirit Parish community.

7 x 

# *Time to ponder...*

- **What has the past hour opened up for you in relation to your current RCIA situation?**

**( personal 5 mins with reflective music)**

- **Move into groups of 4-5**

**Share your reflections if you wish then collectively brainstorm 'best practice' in terms of engaging families during their RCIC journey...**

**(10 - 20mins)**

- **Re-group to cross connect/debrief and conclude**

# RCIC child's prayer...

Loving God,

You sent us Jesus to be with us always.

I pray for myself, health and happiness

I pray for my family, love and togetherness.

I pray for our world to be peaceful and prevent wars.

Amen

*'Hands'  
by Jewel*



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