

A Journey into the Catholic Faith – June Staehr

My journey into the Catholic Faith could have began many years ago. Since I was in my mid to late teens (during the 1960's) I have had in my mind that I should be Catholic but I always put the thought to the back of my mind. If I hadn't maybe my life would have taken a different path and I may not be in Ballarat now, so I'm glad I waited.

Whenever I walked down Sturt Street past the Cathedral I would look at board with the Mass times and look at the open door. Eventually I was drawn in and started to go to Midday Mass two or three times a week starting sometime after Easter 201. I didn't feel out of place then after a couple of months I started also to go to the Vigil Mass on Saturday. I think that is also about the time I went to the office and spoke to Jacinta about joining the next RCIA program. (one of the best decisions I have ever made)

I learnt a lot during RCIA up to Easter Sunday (still learning of course). All the speakers were very interesting. Everyone connected with RCIA were very approachable and always made us feel at ease. Father Justin, Kay, Sue, Anny, Mary, Sister Connie, Diane, Anne, Jean and Julie my Sponsor/God Mother were happy to answer any questions as were all the Catechists. It is very reassuring to have my fellow Catechumens and Candidates and their sponsors at all the meetings, Joan and Renee from the Cathedral and Shona and Andrew from St Columba's.

Every Mass leading upto and including the Easter Dawn Vigil was very memorable for me. At the Easter Dawn Vigil Father Justin Baptised me. I was confirmed and received my First Communion from Bishop Peter. I am looking forward to being an active member of the Cathedral Parish for many years. I would like to thank all connected with RCIA, Bishop Peter and all the Priests who gave me many blessings and words of encouragement over the months leading up to Easter. Thanks also to Julie Flett my sponsor and all the new friends I made at Mass over the past 18 months. There some newer friends I have met in the Family Group I joined which commenced in July this year.

I like Caroline Jones, found that when I began to go to Mass "the ritual spoke to me." I have always had faith but now it means so much more. I would like to finish with a small quote from an article which Caroline Jones wrote about her journey into Catholic Faith in 1985

"The gift of faith has brought salvation, meaning and peace to my life, for which I thank God"

(The article by Caroline Jones in "The Mix" Vol 1 No 2)