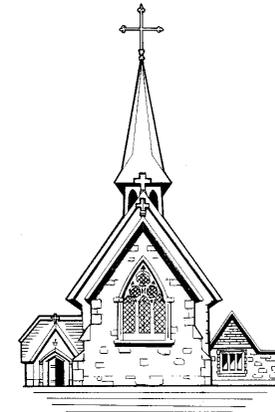


About Becoming Catholic

(Journey in Faith – R.C.I.A.)



A Group that meets at

St Edward the Confessor
R.C. Church,
Romford

13 The Church (History)

What or who are we talking about when we use this word 'Church'? When was the Church founded? What is its role in today's world? In this session we will look at what makes the Church, its structure and hierarchy. We will explore its foundation with Christ and the apostles and trace its history to today.

14 Mary, Mother of God.

Who is Mary in the life of the Church? Why do we find a statue of Mary in Catholic Churches? What is the Immaculate Conception all about? In this session we will explore the role of Mary in the Church and how she came to be known as Virgin and Mother. We will also explore the devotion to Mary in particular through the Rosary.

15 Morality & Conscience (Pastoral Care & Christian Response)

In this session we will explore the Church's teaching on particular moral issues such as: social justice, the right to life, the death penalty and war. We will also explore the areas of sin and forgiveness and look at the role of our conscience in moral decision making.

16 Introducing Holy Week

The Church gives particular importance to the three days before Easter. In this session we explain why. What makes the day of Christ's death a Good Friday? Why is the Easter Vigil considered the most important church ceremony in the Church's liturgical calendar?

17 God's Call for you, What does Christian mean?

We meet Christ in and through our experience of *prayer, scripture, each other and the Church*. What do we mean by the term Christian and why be one? In this session we will look at belief in God who calls us into relationship with Jesus through the Holy Spirit and what part the Church plays in this relationship.

This programme is offered as an outline, 'a taster' and is by no means a complete list. Other topics relating to the Catholic Church will also be explored.

The ABC Group(Journey in Faith RCIA)

This programme is designed for adults who would like to find out about the Christian faith in the Catholic tradition.

It gives the opportunity for those attending to explore the Catholic faith with others and to meet and talk to practicing Catholics about their beliefs. The group meets to pray, read, listen and discuss the Scriptures (sometimes using the readings from Mass for the following Sunday), as well as a programme of topics based on our faith in God, Jesus Christ, the Church and human relationships.

Some come to the group and decide to become fully initiated Catholics during the Easter Vigil at St Edwards. Others use the group to simply find out more. Whatever the outcome, it's an open group that attracts a wide range of interested people.

Those wishing to participate in the group **should already be or wish to become regular in attending** one of our parish Sunday Masses or Saturday Vigil Mass.

When and where we meet.....

The group meets on Wednesday evening, 7.45pm – 9.15pm

Our course *begins in January of each year and lasts for approx 14months*, giving time for reflection and discernment.

We meet at St Edward the Confessor R.C Church in the Upper Room of the Parish Hall.

Programme Outline

1 Welcome – Your Story

What's this group about? Is this group for me? These are just two of the many questions we will explore at this session. This is an evening to explain what we are about and a first chance to meet the other members of the group.

2 Church Tour

Churches can be unfamiliar buildings with unfamiliar objects and often uncomfortable seats! Here we explore the church interior and identify the key areas and objects. Why is a Crucifix given such prominence in every Catholic Church? Why have statues and stained glass depicting saints?

3 The Call of God and our response

We believe God calls each one of us to discover Him in the unfolding story of our lives. In this session we reflect on *our particular story* and identify the people and places that have brought us this far in our journey of faith. Remember, Jesus called his disciples to follow him!

4 The Old Testament

This is the story of God's relationship mainly with the Jewish tradition before the time of Jesus. Are you familiar with the Old Testament? Do you have a favourite passage?

5 Who is Jesus & What did he do & What does he teach?

Using the Gospels we will look at Jesus and explore this man, his family, his followers and his public ministry – his preaching, teaching and miracles. Group members will be asked to read one of the Gospels from start to finish before coming to this session and invited to ask questions and develop an understanding of how the Gospels speak to people in different ways.

6 The New Testament

This is the continuing story of God's love for us made visible in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. In this session we consider the four Gospels, the Letters of St Paul and the history of the early Church. What makes a Gospel good news?

7 The Mass (Eucharist) – History and Structure

Central to the Catholic Church is the celebration of Mass. In this session we explain something of what goes on during the Mass and discover some of the layers of meaning given to the various gestures, for example: *why do Catholics make the sign of the Cross?*

8 Who is God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit)

Jesus calls us his brothers and sisters; he taught us to call God 'Our Father'. Because of this we believe that we can relate to Jesus as a brother. In this session we consider the nature of God and seek to understand why Christians regard God as one and yet speak of a Trinity.

9 Sign and Sacrament

The most intimate and personal things are often expressed by a sign or gesture. The Church has its own signs and the sacraments are particular events which express the presence of Christ acting among us. This session will *introduce the topics of sacraments*.

10 Sacraments of Initiation

Through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist the Catholic completes their *initiation* into the life of the Church. In this session we consider *something of the richness of meaning in these sacraments*. What does it mean to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church?

11 Sacraments of Commitment

The Sacraments of *Matrimony and Holy Orders* confer a particular mission in the Church and serve to build up the People of God. In this session we explore the richness of the Church's theology of marriage and the nature of the ordained ministry.

12 Sacraments of Healing

Through the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing the Catholic is provided with ways of receiving God's forgiveness and healing. In this session we explain what Reconciliation (Confession and Penance) is all about and why a Catholic might ask to be *anointed* with the Oil of the Sick.

Important Dates

For those who decide to become fully initiated as Catholics. Together with attendance at Sunday Mass there are a number of milestones or markers on the journey.

Rite of Election Day

First Sunday of Lent
At Brentwood Cathedral

Sundays during Lent

Affirmation of Faith Scrutiny

The Great Holy Week

Palm Sunday

The Great Passion & Procession of Palms

Holy Wednesday

Mass of Chrism at Brentwood Cathedral
Rededication of Priesthood

The Holy Tridium

Holy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper &
Washing of Feet

Good Friday

Solemn Service of Veneration of the Cross
and Walk of Witness

Saturday Easter Vigil

Reception into the Church

Easter Sunday

Day of Resurrection

Contact.....

To find out more, have an informal chat or register your interest, telephone or email:

Fr Tom Jordan
Or the program co-ordinator
Mary Williams

01708 740308

romford@dioceseofbrentwod.org

