

THERE ARE 5 STAGES IN THE OCIA JOURNEY

• PERIOD OF INQUIRY

This is a time for hearing the Gospel and an opportunity to learn about the Catholic Church and ask questions.

• PERIOD OF CATECHUMENATE

At this time, much of the teaching takes place. It is a time when an individual is nurtured in the growth of the Faith and conversion to God through the celebration of the Word.

• PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT

When catechumens are ready for Christian Initiation, they are formally called to the Sacraments of Initiation. This period usually coincides with Lent and is a 'spiritual retreat' in preparation for the Rites of Initiation at the Easter Vigil.

• RECEPTION OF SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

At the Easter Vigil, Christians around the world celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord; it is the evening when new members are Baptised, Confirmed and receive Holy Communion.

• PERIOD OF MYSTAGOGY

Mystagogy is the period after Christian Initiation, when the newly Baptised or Confirmed are supported in deepening and enriching their living of the Catholic faith in all its aspects.



WHO IS THE OCIA FOR?

Any adult not yet baptised who wishes to become Catholic.

Any adult baptised in another recognised Christian Church who wishes to become Catholic.

Any adult baptised Catholic who has not yet celebrated Eucharist or Confirmation and now wishes to do so.

Fully initiated Catholics whose role is to accompany the candidates.

CONTACT

Contact your local Parish Priest
or email ocia@achonryelphin.ie
or phone 087 3179355
achonrydiocese.org and elphindiocese.ie

BECOMING CATHOLIC OR COMPLETING YOUR CHRISTIAN INITIATION

Welcome!



Dioceses of Achonry and Elphin

WHAT IS THE OCIA?

The Catholic Church always welcomes those interested in exploring the possibility of becoming Catholic.

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (OCIA) is the process by which people enter into the fullness of the Catholic Faith through the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist. These are the Sacraments of Initiation of the Catholic Church.



WHAT ARE THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION (MEMBERSHIP)?

The OCIA process prepares you to participate in the Sacraments of

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- First Holy Communion or Eucharist

The Catholic Church recognises the Baptism received by Christians from other recognised Christian Churches.

In these cases, people wishing to enter the Catholic Church would receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and (First) Eucharist.



WHAT ARE SPONSORS?

A practicing Catholic from the community will be chosen to walk with you on your faith journey through the OCIA programme. Your sponsor is there to help, support and encourage you and provide a link between you and the Faith community. Your sponsor may also become your godparent.

WHO ELSE IS INVOLVED?

The Parish community as a whole, is called to be proactive in welcoming, encouraging and praying with those who are preparing for Christian Initiation.