

# ***The Parish of the Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm Sherborne***

## **Becoming a Catholic**

### ***Welcome! Come and See***

*Faith is a treasure – Jesus called it ‘a pearl of great price’. Rather than a set of rules, or cultural beliefs, it is an encounter with the living Christ who wants to know us, love us, and share with us his life, his peace.*

#### **How do I become a Catholic?**

When someone wants to become a Catholic, the normal procedure is to make an appointment to go and see your local Catholic priest or deacon. Fr Robert or Deacon Jonathan at this parish would be very happy to see you - you can try and get them after Sunday Mass, or you might prefer to telephone. When you see either of them, they will make you welcome and invite you to talk about your desire to become a Catholic.

What happens next depends partly on your circumstances, partly on how much faith background you have and of what type. This parish usually has a small group of Catholics and “enquirers” meeting together once a week for several months or longer to explore what being a Catholic means. At the end of this process, known as the [RCIA](#) (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) those who wish and are ready become Catholics, usually at Easter.

For some people the [RCIA](#) process is not appropriate and so it may be better to arrange for one-to-one conversations with the priest, deacon or a catechist. The needs of the enquirer are naturally paramount.

You are welcome to begin attending Mass at your local Catholic Church whenever you wish, though you would not be able to receive communion yet.

You are free to approach any priest anywhere, but it makes sense to go to your local Church, which will be most convenient for you if you do decide to become a Catholic.

## **Related links:**

[www.caseresources.org.uk](http://www.caseresources.org.uk) - a dedicated website which is designed to help enthuse, engage and equip Catholics for the task of evangelisation.

[www.life4seekers.co.uk](http://www.life4seekers.co.uk) - Life4seekers is for those people who want to improve their life and find a new sense of fulfilment, a fresh energy and joy of living. If you are searching for happiness, a sense of purpose and new direction in life, life4seekers is the right site to explore.

[www.rcia.org.uk](http://www.rcia.org.uk) - Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) for those who would like to join the Catholic Church.

*Roman Catholics believe that in worship Jesus Christ becomes truly present to us. He comes to us to comfort us, heal us and strengthen us. Worship is the source and summit of the life of the Church, and the life of each member of the Church, that is why it is so important, and why we take such care to ensure that all can participate as actively and fully as possible.*

*Belonging is one of the most basic of human needs.*

*We all need to belong somewhere, deep in our heart we know that we belong to God – because He speaks to us in the secret place in our heart.*

*God calls us to belong to His people, and that call can keep nagging at us.*

*St Augustine said:*

*“Our Hearts are restless, O Lord, until they rest in you”*

*The invitation is to find God who can give your heart rest, by being one with His people.*

If you would like to come to a quiet service – Mass on Tuesday evenings at 6.30 p.m. or on Wednesday or Friday morning at 10.00 would be a good time – you can get a feel and meet a few people.

Other service times are listed in the parish newsletter.  
Please feel able to come and be part of the parish community.

If you know someone who is part of the parish already, it might be easier to come along with them – you are welcome.

***May God bless you in your journey of faith, and may this community accompany you on that journey***

*By God's gift, through water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn to everlasting life. In his goodness, may God pour out his blessings upon you. May he make you always, wherever you may be, faithful members of his people.*