

R C I A

Rite for the Christian Initiation of Adults

We met for the first time last Monday, and determined the form of our future meetings. We're meeting every Monday at 7 pm for the next nine weeks (until Advent begins, when a different Advent course will take place). After Christmas we hope to meet for more Mondays, until Lent begins, when we may follow the Lenten progress towards Easter itself.



What We Want To Talk About We asked what areas of question people felt should be covered, and answers came as follows, in no particular order:

How do we find our way to God? How does belief in God the Creator live beside the scientific view of reality? Are we free, or is the fate of the world already determined? What does prayer mean, and how are we to do it? What are the Sacraments? Why are there natural disasters, suffering, sin? How do we live with the imperfections and sinfulness of the Church, as a human reality? Is all religion hypocritical? How does Catholicism relate to other religions, and to other Christian denominations? What does Catholicism say about wealth, and justice? What is the meaning of the Cross of Christ? How are we to think about the Resurrection? How does Catholicism sit in the 21st century? What does commitment to the Christian life mean today? Where does devotion to Mary and the saints fit in? Why do we respect the Bible so much? What about (guardian) angels?- and, a small subject to add - what is the meaning of the Trinity?

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This is already a massive series of topics; but Christianity is seamless, and they're all connected to each other and to many other subjects as well; so it's clear that we are in for a meaty diet! To make it more manageable, I've tried to map a process over the first part of the course. Here is a menu for the **Mondays** before Advent:

Oct 2 nd :	In Search Of God	Human faith and reason: revelation: Israel & Scripture
9 th	Creation	Looking for meaning: science and religion: the image of God
16 th	Evil	How does a good God permit suffering?
23 rd	Jesus	His life and message: what the Church says of him
30 th	The Cross	What does the Cross tell us about God/about us?
Nov 6 th	Easter	How does the Resurrection change things?
13 th	The Trinity	What can we say about God's life?
20 th	The Church	What did Jesus found? How does the Catholic Church fit in?
27 th	Prayer	Can we communicate with God, and God with us?

There will be a question-box open to all comers, whose contents may cause us to swerve, divert, or augment the contents at any point. We will put out a sheet each Sunday to outline the particular topics we're covering the next day, so that people can fruitfully take part, and think a little bit in advance.

