

RCIA – Information to present at AGM March 2020

In July 2019, the parish of St Simon Stock welcomed with great joy, one man fully into the Catholic Church, where he received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion. This followed nearly a year of preparation. His dedication and commitment shone through as he juggled a busy work schedule with RCIA catch up meetings and study time. His fiancé who was also his sponsor, continues to support his faith journey and they plan to marry in August this year.

In October last year we began our usual 25 session RCIA course with two enquirers at the beginning. By Christmas, our numbers rose to five and our group has gone from strength to strength. There are three Candidates (preparing to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Holy Communion) and two Catechumens (preparing to receive the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion). They make a very strong group, each one of them committed to their faith and ever keen to explore deeper and learn more.



In February we all attended The Rite of Election at St George's Cathedral, presided by Archbishop John Wilson. There, we heard the names of our Candidates and Catechumens read out and we prayed for them all. The service was beautiful and gave us all a chance to sing God's praises and raise the roof!

Although our course is temporarily interrupted during the national quarantine, we continue to support our Candidates and Catechumens by text, WhatsApp and email. We also encourage them to 'attend' the Masses that Fr Bart has been live streaming over the past two weeks.

At the moment we don't know when they will be able to receive the sacraments and join in full communion with the Catholic Church, but we are very blessed to have them as part of our parish family.

We also thank their sponsors, family and friends who are supporting them.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Denise Smith

Mavis Westbrook