

***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.

Becoming a Catholic

People become Catholics for all sorts of reasons - the inspiration of great saints, an awareness of the long tradition, a sense of searching, the experience of Catholics locally or in your family, people and events in the distant past, a feeling of rightness about Catholic teaching. All these are valid ways in which God's Holy Spirit may be working in our life and inviting you to explore the Catholic church to see if you wish to live as a Catholic Christian.

Be assured of the prayers and support of this community that wants to invite you to explore your faith, and perhaps become part of this community of faith.

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. You can try and get him after Sunday Mass, but he might be busy then, so it is probably better to telephone. When you see him, he will make you welcome and invite you to talk about your desire to become a Catholic.

What happens next depends partly on local circumstances, partly on how much faith background you have and of what type.

Many parishes have 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.

In other cases, it may be more suitable for the enquirer to have one-to-one conversations with a priest or 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.

The important thing about becoming a Catholic is belonging to a Catholic community - this would normally be the local parish, where the people will welcome you and support you in your faith and become the worshipping family which you join at Mass.

Parish of Sacred Heart and St Aldhelm
Westbury, Sherborne DT9 3EL
Parish Office: 01935 812021
Email: sherborne@prcdtr.org.uk
Website: www.sherbornecatholicchurch.org