

*The Journey* is a process of formation to prepare and support people for living according to the vows and promises of Christian living. It is modelled on an early church pattern for initiating Christians through a four stage process that provided liturgy, instruction, practical experience and study, spiritual guidance, and nurture. A similar process is becoming increasingly necessary in our own contemporary world where forming Christians in the midst of secular, multicultural society.

In the third and fourth centuries, those who wanted to become Christians would participate in preparation often as long as three years before being baptised. The initiation sacraments of baptism, confirmation and first communion were administered to the candidates at the Great Vigil of Easter.

Those who were preparing for baptism were called *catechumens* meaning “hearer of the Word” or “learners”. During their time of formation, they were sponsored by members of the community,

and were given guidance and training for becoming Christians, especially for **living** as Christians.

Who is *The Journey* for?

Since formation for Christian living is a life-long pilgrimage, this programme is for:

- ◇ Those who want to find out about the Christian faith for the first time
- ◇ active members seeking to deepen their commitment
- ◇ Those who were baptised as infants and who want to make a mature affirmation of their faith
- ◇ newcomers from other churches
- ◇ Those who are seeking out the church for marriage or baptism for a child
- ◇ those who are returning to the church from another church or denomination
- ◇ lapsed members reconsidering their Christian commitment.

At its heart *The Journey* is about conversion. The language of our baptismal covenant presumes we are growing into our faith and ministry. In our Baptismal Covenant we promise to *strive to live as disciples of Christ*.

This language presumes we are growing and being transformed.

Christian Transformation is ongoing conversion, an essentially human experience of growing and changing. Conversion takes place when we confront a growing sense of restlessness and separation, when our world of meaning is challenged or feels worthless.

It is followed by an in between stage marked by disorientation and disillusionment and an intense desire for something distant and unknown. It is resolved when we experience rebirth and find new life and renewed purpose in Christ.

This experience of separation, disillusionment and renewal - or of death, burial and resurrection - lies at the very heart of human experience. It forms the heart of our lives as disciples of Christ..

*The Journey* is one way that we, the community of All Saints can offer support to those in this process of Christian growth and conversion.

As a Christian community, we are to be a place where people can find nurture, healing, support and care. We are to be a place where the Gospel is proclaimed and God's love is shown.

We are to be a place where our human story is given new meaning in God's story. We are to be a place where all are welcomed and loved in God's name.

**The Journey** is an organised process for welcoming, supporting and caring for people and for providing a place where the human story and God's story can be heard and told. The process is not an end or a solution. It is an imperfect way of offering ourselves to be companions to one another on our Christian journeys.

**The Journey** is open to everyone, baptised or unbaptised, who want to explore their faith and growth as Christians.

Divided into four stages, each stage marked by an appropriate liturgy. At the centre are the initiatory sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation; and also reception, reaffirmation, and baptismal renewal.

Beyond these sacramental celebrations is a process to form people of faith as they strive to live in their daily places as followers of Jesus Christ.

*After Pentecost*

STAGE 1: Enquiry

*Advent*

RITE 1: Welcoming into the Community

STAGE 2: Exploring our Faith and Ministry

*Lent*

RITE 2: Enrolment and Calling

STAGE 3: Preparing for the Sacrament of Baptism, and Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows

RITE 3: Maundy Thursday Rite of Preparation for Three Days of Easter.

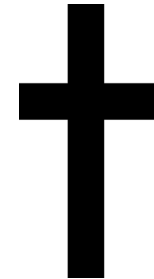
*The Great Vigil of Easter  
Bishop's visit*

STAGE 4: Living into the Easter Mystery

*Pentecost*

If you are interested  
in finding out  
more about *The Journey*,  
then please speak to the cathedral clergy.  
or contact 4821 2206  
or email [office@goulburncathedral.org.au](mailto:office@goulburncathedral.org.au)

# St Saviour's Cathedral



## *The Journey* Making disciples for Christ

*Formation  
for Christian Living  
and Ministry*

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit