

# St John Henry Newman Parish Morecambe



**JOURNEY**

**IN**

**FAITH**

**Autumn 2023**

**THINKING ABOUT  
BECOMING A CATHOLIC  
OR CATHOLIC AND  
WANTING TO KNOW  
MORE ABOUT YOUR  
FAITH**

You are all invited to join us for

**JOURNEY**

**IN**

**FAITH**



Most years Catholic Parishes organise a course of instruction on ‘What Catholics believe’ i.e. the Teaching of the Catholic Church. I don’t think there has been this opportunity in this parish since before COVID.

I am happy to say that this year we will be running a course from autumn to Easter. Each Wednesday evening from 7:30pm to 8:30pm Fr Darren or Deacon John and a small group of parishioners gather to share their faith with ‘enquirers.’ Or people just looking to deepen their faith.

The course, which is informal in nature, is suitable for:

- Catholics wishing to know more about their Faith or who were never Confirmed and wish to be so.
- Non-Catholics interested in learning what the Church teaches (maybe with a view to entering the Church by becoming a Catholic)
- Parents (Catholic and non-Catholic) whose children are:
  - Beginning at a Catholic School
  - Beginning or have completed Sacramental preparation for First Confession/Holy Communion
  - Beginning or have completed Sacramental preparation for Confirmation
  - About to be or have recently been Baptised
- Those preparing for Marriage.
- Anyone really

**Journey in Faith:** Most Catholics enter the Church through baptism as infants and receive Reconciliation and the Eucharist (First Communion and Confession) and Confirmation when young. However, there are many people who become Catholics, or receive the Sacraments they have previously missed, later in life. The Journey in Faith programme is the preparation for this.

**The Format:** People enquiring about the Catholic Faith can feel nervous. This is an important decision, but you are not alone. Thousands of people across the country are doing the same thing. There will be others at St John Henry Newman Parish in a similar situation with the same basic questions. The Journey in Faith programme besides being informative, is an enjoyable, social occasion and the opportunity to make good friends.

**The Timetable:** Starting in the early autumn, we will meet on Wednesday evenings over several months (with breaks). Each week we look at an aspect of

our faith, the existence of God, who Jesus really is, what happens at Mass, how being a Catholic affects our daily life. There are plenty of opportunities for questions and discussion. You may feel drawn to enter the Church but you are the person who decides at the right time for you. If you decide to enter, you will normally be welcomed into the Church at the beautiful Easter Vigil Service when we celebrate Jesus' Resurrection from the dead. At that evening Service you will be baptised (if you are not already a baptised Christian), Confirmed and make your First Holy Communion. In doing so, you become a full member of the Catholic Church and will receive a very warm welcome into the parish.

**Can anyone become a Catholic?** Yes. All that is required is belief in God and the teachings of the Catholic Church founded by Jesus Christ. This should be borne out in our daily lives, e.g. by prayer, coming to Mass on Sundays, living moral lives of truth and charity. If this isn't entirely the case currently, then the Journey in Faith programme is the opportunity to investigate further. All we ask is a willingness to explore in good faith and openness to the call of Jesus to become more faithfully His disciple. There are lots of misunderstandings about what the Catholic Church actually believes and why. This is your chance to find out for yourself.

**I was brought up as a Christian in another denomination.**

**Do I have to reject my past life?** No – if it isn't contrary to our faith and morals. God has brought you to this point where you are considering becoming a Catholic. We rejoice in the goodness and truth you have experienced elsewhere. We willingly admit that elements of the truth are found amongst other Christians, but the fullness of truth is found in the Catholic Church. You are simply asked to state your belief in the teaching of Jesus and His Church. Each of our sessions will generally follow the same format, though this may vary from time to time.

The sessions will be divided into 4 parts:

- 1) Gathering. Welcome & Introduction;
- 2) Presentation of Topic;
- 3) Discussion;
- 4) Prayer time.

**For more information contact the parish office:**

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