

Jodie's story



I grew up in Hobart in a single parent family with little or no religion in my up-bringing. I went to a public school and went on to complete a Science degree at the University of Tasmania, and later a Teaching degree. I met my husband at university, and we were married in 1995 in a civil ceremony at Franklin House in Launceston. We have three beautiful children, aged 11, nine and four.

When we moved our children to Larmenier last year, we decided to have the children baptised into the Catholic faith. We started attending mass at St Peter's Church at Kings Meadows and were warmly welcomed into the parish and made feel like part of the family. Initially, I wanted to be baptised to support my children, but after starting the RCIA it became more than that. It was something from within giving me the passion to continue with my journey. Coming from a non-religious background, I started the process with no pre-conceived ideas from other religious denominations, but I also had to start at the very beginning with almost no prior knowledge of the Catholic Church. After attending a few of the meetings with Father John O'Connor and members from the parish, who selflessly gave up their time to guide and support me, I could see that God had been walking with me my entire life, leading me to the moment where I could accept and commit to the Catholic faith. What I had considered to be "coincidences" throughout my life, upon reflection, I could see were the interventions of the Lord.

The process of preparation for my baptism, confirmation and receiving Eucharist was filled with meaning and spiritual growth. Father John guided the RCIA process and proved to be a constant source of information, answering any questions that arose over the course of my spiritual growth. I had many questions but they were always answered with honesty and warmth. My Godparents and Sponsors shared their own journeys of faith, and it was an enriching experience to hear their insights and share in their beliefs. In the lead up to the Easter Vigil Mass when my baptism took place, many members of the parish came up to me to congratulate me and

welcome my family and me into the Catholic community. It was a warm, welcoming feeling, one of acceptance, and for me it made me feel safe in the knowledge that I was making the right decision.

I look forward to attending mass, meeting my new friends, hearing the readings from the Bible, and learning how I can be a better person for my family, for the Church, and for society. I am now learning to become a whole person.

While I am now a baptised and confirmed Catholic who is able to receive Eucharist, I consider this to be the first step in a lifelong journey in faith - one that I look forward to with wholeheartedness. I feel very blessed to be a part of the Catholic Church.