

## Reviews of the Come and See sessions

"Having been baptised and raised as a Catholic, I had allowed my faith to slip as an adult. I was very pleased indeed to discover that St Peter's held "Come and See" sessions, which I attended weekly from September 2014. I found the whole experience to be welcoming and positive and found myself looking forward to the weekly meetings. It enabled me to renew my faith in the company of like minded others and I have really benefitted from the sense of community and support offered. I was also assisted enormously with introducing my three children to the Catholic faith which has proved to be of great value to them." Patsy

"There was a time when I felt desperate about life, and struggling to find meaning in my existence. During a hospital stay, I felt God's presence. He gave me comfort, and I felt his love. I spoke with a hospital chaplain, which inspired me to learn more about Christianity, and the Catholic faith.

"The 'Come & See' sessions were an ideal introduction to learning. The welcoming atmosphere, with no pressure or expectations of commitment, suited me well. The gentle, relaxed format was designed so that any person could understand the foundations of Christianity, and the beliefs and practices of the Catholic faith.

"The weekly sessions led to my desire to be baptised, which took place at Easter. The sense of community and friendship within the Catholic Church has renewed my belief in life and people, and that God is with me always, loving me despite my failings, and encouraging me to lead a life of positivity and good in the way he desires me to". Mark

"I joined RCIA from an Anglican background of 15 years. I had been gradually drawn to the Catholic faith by the contemplative nature, a sense of an older and more authentic faith practice, and especially the miracle of the Eucharist in which it is more than the symbolic act of communion in the Anglican tradition. The leaders were friendly, welcoming and very knowledgeable and it was a great way to learn more about the Catholic Faith. Joining the Church at Easter was very special and becoming Catholic has definitely strengthened and deepened my faith. I particularly have a stronger sense of Jesus' presence within me. It is hard to describe, but perhaps to say that previously I knew that He was in my heart, and now I can feel His presence within my whole being." Victoria

"I was brought up in the Church of England, but my mother became a Catholic shortly before she died. I see Roman Catholicism as the true Faith, based on Jesus saying to Peter: 'You are my rock and upon this rock I will build my Church.'

"The sessions were very informative and we learnt so much about the teachings of the Catholic Church and about the Bible. Margaret, Gareth and Claire supported me on my journey to finally become a member of the Catholic Church. To be confirmed and take my first Communion has meant so much. I am now a member of a special religion, which has brought me nearer to God the Father, Jesus, his son, and the Holy Spirit. It has changed me so much. I feel I am a better person and have more understanding of people less fortunate than I am. I have always liked helping people, but now I want to give something back to the church by helping in some way. I am proud of being a member of the Catholic Church and love going to Mass every week, where everyone is so welcoming. My only regret is that I didn't become a Catholic years ago!" David

My religious background was Church of England and I was baptised in the crypt of Coventry Cathedral before the war and worshipped at Holy Trinity in Leamington Spa. My Mother was heavily involved in the church and I belonged to the scout troop attached to the church. I was confirmed at St Marks and was a regular churchgoer until I went to London at the age of 18 to learn my trade. Regretfully, my church going became infrequent but my 3 children were baptised in the C of E and my 2 daughters were married at Holy Trinity. After I became a widower and then re-married, my wife was involved in St Peter's and I, naturally, joined her in the choir and also in the Pastimes group helping to run the tombola and I was amazed at the way I was made so welcome. I decided to join the Come and See sessions to find out the difference between C of E and Catholicism and was surprised that the basics were not dissimilar. However as the weeks went by I found that I felt more and more comfortable with the Catholic faith and that I needed the fulfilment that receiving Communion would give me. I also felt that I was closer to God and looked forward to Mass each week. It became an easy decision to convert entirely to the Catholic faith and I have to thank Margaret, Gareth and Fr Benedict for their help, instruction and guidance. "Come and See" has been a life changing experience. Roger