

# **RCIA Network of England and Wales**

Report for EuroCat, Vienna 2019

## **Network Executive**

The 8 person Network Executive has changed how we meet in the last year. From day meetings in London every 3 months we have moved to a model of video-conferences for 40 minutes every 2 months and an overnight meeting in the summer. This allows a better use of people's time and also reduces costs. The short meetings are more focussed, when the technology works. The overnight meeting allows time for conversations and reflections.

## **Conversion**

We found the presentations at the EuroCat Conference in Pecs in 2017 very inspiring. Since then we have been considering the theme of Conversion. Our aim is to prepare a format where we will present to a large group. We used our overnight meeting in 2018 to explore together Conversion from a variety of approaches: scripture, story, art, theology, process — with each member taking a different aspect. The next stage will be to work with an invited group of catechists and others in the autumn. One of our hopes is that the topic will provide a bridge between different areas of the Church such as Evangelisation and Initiation.

## **Website**

A challenge in the last year has been the hacking of our website – [www.rcia.org.uk](http://www.rcia.org.uk). There is now a significant task of reviewing and reassembling the site.

## **Rite of Election**

We continue to collect the figures for the diocesan Rite of Elections. The main trend, which has been observable for a number of years, is the relative growth of the numbers of Catechumens. This year a third of dioceses had more Catechumens than Candidates (those preparing for Reception).

## **OCIA**

There is a new English language translation of the liturgical rite in preparation. Like the French edition, the current English edition significantly edits the text and re-orders it. So that, for example, each period or stage is preceded by an introduction. The new translation follows the Latin ordering of the text. Though it is apparent that Roman expectations of liturgical translations is changing it is unlikely that such a re-shaping is possible. What is being considered is additional rites. The English edition includes a rite for having both Initiation and Reception at the Easter Vigil which is the common practice in parishes. Though there are arguments against such an arrangement the current provision will be retained. In similar a text for the Rite of Election which incorporates both Catechumens and Candidates. Though this is the common practice in all the diocese there is no official liturgy in the current rite for England and Wales. The title will also change to the *Order of Christian Initiation of Adults*. Its eventual publication will provide an opportunity for renewed formation and catechesis.

## **Other Projects**

Executive members continue to be involved in a range of other projects and making connections with the Catechumenate. One to highlight is the Bishops' Conference initiative for a *Year of the Word; the God who speaks* in 2020.

Martin Foster

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