**Moving On:**

You may like to use the generic action planning format as a useful framework for planning this initiative but please note down your initial thoughts in the space below prior to sharing with fellow parishioners.

##### *(Please insert your own parish name here before copying for parish use)*

##### *Parishes of Hope*

*Celebrating, consolidating and securing the Mission of the Church - an opportunity to deepen the faith of our Parish communities in changing times*

***“Gratitude for the past, enthusiasm for the present, hope for the future” (John Paul ll)***

##### *RCIA for Adults*

**EXPLORING RCIA**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a way of welcoming and forming not only those who are intending to become full members of the Church, but also the whole parish community.

It involves as many people in the parish as possible and works on the principle that we are all on a journey of faith, continually being invited by God to respond with faith and to learn more about how God works with and through us.

RCIA has four stages. Catholics and those who are not Catholics are invited to explore the gospel and what it means for today.

The first stage is the sharing of stories. The gospel story of Jesus and our own stories of how God is alive in us today. We discover one another’s questions and hear God’s answers (evangelisation).

The second stage looks in more detail at the teaching of the Church (the catechumenate).

The third looks at prayer and spirituality (enlightenment) and the fourth takes place after Easter, when new people have joined the Church, and looks at how we live out our faith in church and in the world (post-baptismal catechesis).

Here is a checklist for those wanting to set up RCIA in the parish:-

1. Think (and discover) what RCIA is really all about ***(You will find Mary Dolan, Director of Adult Education for the diocese, most helpful.)***
2. Develop a team who will be responsible (two or three people). Remember it may be far more effective if you work with a nearby parish.
3. Make sure the whole of the community at Church know as much as possible about what is happening
4. Involve as many as possible - prayers, welcomers, catechists, hospitality arrangers, etc.
5. Fix dates and venue (make sure these are comfortable and at a convenient time)
6. Plan a framework. RCIA is a process not a programme. You need a structure but people will come with particular questions and at different stages on their faith journey. It may be necessary to adapt the journey to the speed of the group
7. Make sure each session has:-
8. some input
9. some time for working out how what is said affects daily living out of faith
10. some prayer
11. some socialising time
12. If you do not have a resident priest, liaise with the Dean, (or his nominee), to work out the liturgical implications
13. Work collaboratively, different people taking responsibility for different bits of the process

There are plenty of books on RCIA to help you,