**RCIA REPORT 2016 -2017**

For the Parish AGM held on Tuesday 29th August 2-17

St Columbkille’s RCIA Team consisted of :

**Chris Hughes** (Leader)

**Michael Dunne**

**Patsy Beveridge**

**Santina Myles**

We remember with affection and gratitude **Tom Armstrong** who passed away in the summer of 2016. Tom was a valuable and valued member of the Team for over two decades. He had intended to be part of the Team in this Session, but had to resign in August due to ill health. We wish to extend to his wife Alexandrina and family, our deepest condolences and thanks for Tom’s faithful and valuable service to our Ministry.

We met on Tuesday evenings at 6.30pm in the dining room of the Parish House from **20th September 2016** until **30th May 2017** (Pentecost)

We had one Candidate, **Kathleen Butler** who was received into the Church during the Easter Vigil Service on Saturday 15th April 2017 by Fr. Ghislain Bakulikire Mulumanzi, Fr. Pat Hennessy and Fr. Stephen Reilly, assisted by Deacon Bill McMillan. She received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist and was accompanied by her mother and sister who travelled from England for the celebration.

As well as the **Triduum**, she also attended the **Rite of Sending** in our Church followed by the **Rite of Election** in **Motherwell Cathedral on the 1st Sunday of Lent** where she met Bishop Toal and signed the **Book of the Elect.** She also attended the **Mass of Chrism** in the Cathedral on Holy Thursday morning.

Kathleen was a very faithful, conscientious and enthusiastic Candidate, who travelled from Hamilton by train every Tuesday evening throughout the winter for the meetings. She was a parishioner of St Mary’s Hamilton and had been directed to our parish as an available source of the RCIA Course.

We have installed a large permanent advert on the new Notice Board at the back of the church, with information leaflets available about the RCIA Course.

The drop in numbers in this Session, which has averaged at 4/5 candidates over the past four years, may be due to the closure of the Church for its Renovation and our subsequent “low profile” on the Main Street.

We believe, also, that having less funerals held in St Columbkille’s Church during the decanting to the Church Hall, lowered the number of visitors at our Services.

We have arranged the **Enquiry Evening** for this next 2017/18 Session for **Tuesday 19th September 2017** at 6.30pm, in the Parish House.