

# Policy for the Diocese of Auckland on the Completion of Initiation of Catholics Baptised in Infancy.

## **Order and Age**

- 1 The order of the Sacraments of Initiation is to be: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- 2 From 1996 onwards baptized children are to complete their initiation at the age of discretion.

## **Celebration of the Sacraments**

- 3 The Sacraments of Confirmation and the first reception of Eucharist are to take place within the same celebration.
- 4 For those who have received Eucharist but are not yet confirmed, parishes must provide opportunities for preparation for, and celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation.
- 5 The Easter season (Easter to Pentecost) is the preferred time for celebration the Sacraments of Initiation.
- 6 The Bishop has a primary role in the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation. The bishop may delegate local priests to confirm those baptized in infancy, but it is not a general permission. Priests must apply to the Bishop for that permission.

## **Formation in Faith**

- 7 Children are to be initiated within the parish community. It is the responsibility of the parish to help parents in the formation of their children for the Sacraments of Initiation. Where possible schools are to give active support to the parish in this process.
- 8 Initiation into the Church's sacramental life requires formation both before and after the reception of the Sacraments of Initiation. Adequate preparation is to be followed by ongoing reflection and catechesis after the sacramental celebration.

## **Relationship with RCIA and RCICCA**

- 9 In the catechesis of the community and in the celebration of the rites, care must be taken to maintain the distinction between previously baptized children and the catechumens (unbaptised children preparing for Initiation).

However, parishes are to make every effort to ensure that young catechumens and previously baptized children preparing for Confirmation and Eucharist are to enjoy the support of one another within the same catechetical group.

Wherever possible, initiatory rites of young catechumens and previously baptized children are to be celebrated together, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the RCIA.

## **Reconciliation**

- 10 At present the sacramental celebration of Reconciliation must precede first Eucharist in a way suited for young children (c/f Canon 914). The Second Rite seems to be more suitable for children. The Season of Lent is the most appropriate time for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.