



TOOWOOMBA DIOCESAN LITURGICAL COMMISSION

GUIDING PRINCIPLES IN CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION: CONFIRMATION & EUCHARIST FOR CHILDREN

- 1. The celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation and Reconciliation are events of the local Church community. The preparation for these sacraments belongs primarily to the families of the candidates and to the community of the faithful.**
- 2. Confirmation and First Holy Communion may be desirable for children of pre-school age who exhibit signs of readiness.**
- 3. Families ought to be invited frequently to enrol with their children in the parish program to prepare for the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation and Reconciliation.**
- 4. The celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance) normally precedes first Holy Communion. The first celebration of Reconciliation is usually separated from first Holy Communion by some months.**
- 5. It seems desirable that children be introduced to the Sacrament of Reconciliation through the communal rite (second rite). Although the individual rite (first rite) of Reconciliation is usually deferred to a later age, the child (guided by family members) is always free to celebrate this form of the sacrament.**
- 6. The parish program of preparation for Initiation and Reconciliation involves not only the child, but also family members and, where possible, baptismal sponsors.**
- 7. Every child is expected to be regular in attendance at an on-going program of catechesis which gradually unfolds the richness of the tradition to children at a level consonant with their age and ability.**
- 8. The celebration of the Sacraments involves the whole community, but the particular way in which Sacraments are celebrated is also sensitive to, and respects, the varying situations, traditions and wishes of the families involved.**
- 9. Lent is the most suitable season for catechising about and celebrating the Sacrament of Penance. The Easter Season provides the best setting for Confirmation.**
- 10. Children with an intellectual disability are to prepare for and celebrate sacraments with suitable variations according to their disability (DMC#6).**