



Archdiocese of St. Andrews and Edinburgh
CHRISTIAN INITIATION of CHILDREN (CIC) REVIEW 2010

To be completed by 11th June 2010

Before completing this review please reread the enclosed documents:

- Confirming the Church in our Archdiocese 2001
- The Liturgical Journey for CIC August 2004

My dear friends,

I am writing this letter, both to priests in parishes and to the head teachers of our Catholic primary schools. I know that, as always, parishes and schools are called upon to collaborate in every way possible – especially in this vitally important matter of the sacramental preparation of our children.

As you may know, in 2001 after many years of discussion and consultation we revised the diocesan policy for the Christian Initiation of Children. This revision took place in the light of the principles of initiation found in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Now that ten years have passed, it is fitting to conduct a review of this. It is also fitting to have a review at this time in light of the imminent introduction of the new curriculum for excellence in our schools. This is an opportune time to review the parish and school practice of preparation for the completion of Christian Initiation.

I am aware that many head teachers and clergy are in place now who may not be aware of the policy document of the archdiocese and so this is included with the review, and a sample liturgical journey.

The findings of this review will be compiled into an archdiocesan statement which will provide the vision and framework for further development and continued cooperation between the home, parish and school as key locales of formation.

I invite all **priests in our parishes** to complete this review, in consultation with any **sacramental catechetical team in your parish**. **Head teachers** as asked to complete the consultation with any **appropriate members of staff**.

As I have indicated above, schools and parishes are asked to collaborate in every way possible, of course, in preparing our young people for reception of the Sacraments. Parish responses will be collated by Patricia Carroll, the Episcopal Delegate for Pastoral Resources and school responses will be collated by Brid O'Brien, the Director of Religious Education. These responses should be completed by the 11th June 2010, and can be sent by email or by post.

With my kindest regards and my renewed and sincere thanks to you all for your vitally important efforts with regard to the children entrusted to our care.

Yours sincerely in Christ

+ Keith Patrick Cardinal O'Brien
Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh

THIS REVIEW IS DESIGNED to ENABLE EACH PARISH and SCHOOL to EXAMINE their current pastoral practice of Sacramental Initiation with a view to identifying further developmental needs.

Comments should be evidential and not anecdotal

1. ENROLMENT for completion of CIC

When does this take place in your parish for children?

State the Time/s of the Year:

State the Primary school stage:

PREPARATION

How are parents and children prepared for this?

CELEBRATION

What are the strengths of the way it is currently celebrated in the parish liturgy?

What needs further development?

2. OPPORTUNITY to REVISIT the SYMBOLISM and EXPERIENCE of BAPTISM

How are parents and children given an opportunity to revisit their baptism throughout the whole process?

What resources do you use for this?

How could this be developed further?

3. OTHER PREPARATORY RITES

Tick the box below if any of the following Rites are celebrated in the parish:

Rite of Enrolment and Signing with the Cross

When:

Liturgy of Light & Renewal of Baptismal Commitment

When:

Presentation of the Scriptures/Gospel

When:

Presentation of the Creed

When:

Presentation of the Our Father

When:

OTHER RITES *please state what they are*

When:

In what way/s are parents and children given an appropriate catechesis for these liturgical celebrations?

Please comment on how beneficial you have found the celebration of any or all of these preparatory Rites?

What resources do you use for this?

How could this be improved?

4. PRIMARY 3 SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION

How and when are parents and children prepared for the reception of this sacrament and its liturgical celebration?

What resources do you use?

How could this be developed further?

When are there opportunities for the children to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation subsequently and throughout their Primary school years?

Complete either section 5 or sections 6 & 7 as applicable

5. PRIMARY 4 CONFIRMATION & RECEPTION of HOLY COMMUNION

How are parents and children prepared for the reception of these sacraments of initiation and their liturgical celebration?

How and when does this celebration take place?

What are the strengths of this way of celebrating?

What resources do you use?

What pastoral issues/concerns have arisen in relation to this celebration?

How do you practically respond to these?

6. PRIMARY 4 SACRAMENT of CONFIRMATION

How are parents and children prepared for the reception of this sacrament and the liturgical celebration?

How and when does this celebration take place?

What are the strengths of this way of celebrating?

What resources do you use?

What pastoral issues/concerns have arisen in relation to this celebration?

How do you practically respond to these?

7. PRIMARY 4 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

How and when is this usually celebrated in your parish?

How are children and parents prepared for this?

What are the strengths of this way of celebrating?

What resources are used?

What pastoral issues/concerns has it raised?

How do you practically respond to these?

8. PARENTS/GUARDIANS FORMATION

How much time is given to the ongoing formation of parents/guardians to enable their children to celebrate well?

How many parent/guardian sessions are there for Reconciliation, and subsequently for Confirmation and reception of Holy Communion?

How effective are these sessions?

What pastoral issues/concerns have they raised?

9. DEANERY PARISH VISIT for CONFIRMATION by ARCHBISHOP

How do you understand the purpose of this visit?

How does this enable the parish to understand the role of the bishop and the priest in Confirmation?

When has this taken place in your parish?

Other comment:

10. ONGOING FORMATIVE EXPERIENCES

How is Confirmation revisited in Primary 7 before moving on to Secondary School?

Where are there opportunities for growth in prayer, celebration of liturgy and sacraments in Primary 5, 6 and 7?

How would you like to see this develop and improve?

11. PRIMARY 7 DEANERY MASS of MISSIONING

What is your experience of this in your own deanery? How often does this take place?

How could the experience of this be improved in your deanery?

Is there currently any alternative to this celebration in your deanery/parish?

12. OVERALL ASSESSMENT

Please write a statement about your view of current sacramental preparation under the following headings:

KEY SUCCESSES:

KEY CONCERNS:

WHAT NEEDS FURTHER DEVELOPMENT:

ANY OTHER COMMENT:

If there are any resources which you currently use and are willing to share please attach these or enclose or give details of books

Signature of Parish Priest or Head Teacher.....

PARISH or SCHOOL NAME

Date.....

Please return:

PARISH RESPONSES to
Patricia Carroll
Episcopal Delegate for Pastoral Resources
The Gillis Centre
100 Strathearn Rd., Edinburgh EH9 1BB
or email to
patricia.carroll@staned.org.uk

SCHOOL RESPONSES to
Brid O'Brien
Director of Religious Education
The Gillis Centre
100 Strathearn Rd., Edinburgh EH9 1BB
or email to
brid.obrien@staned.org.uk