



Bishop's Office

MEMO

DATE: 13 January 2012
TO: All Clergy; Pastoral Ministers; Pastoral Contacts;
Dianne Rowan & Joelyn Benoit
FROM: Bishop Brian Heenan
RE: **Sacraments of Initiation**

As you are aware, at the Diocesan Assembly in 2009, a recommendation was given to me as Bishop namely to:

'Review the process and programmes used to prepare children, teenagers and their parents for the Sacraments of Initiation'.

The group charged with the responsibility of carrying out the review forwarded to me their recommendations for my consideration.

As your Bishop I would like to advise you of the outcome of my deliberations regarding the process and programmes used to prepare children, teenagers and their parents for the Sacraments of Initiation in the Diocese of Rockhampton.

1. While Baptism remains in infancy, Confirmation is received prior or together with the first reception of the Sacrament of Eucharist. **(NB Wording has changed slightly from original policy)**
2. That the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation maybe separated (e.g. Confirmation and then about a month later Eucharist)
3. That Confirmation may be celebrated outside Mass so that the full focus can be given to the celebration of this Sacrament (The Rites Volume 1 Rite of Confirmation # 34-49)
4. That the correct order be retained
5. That process is about readiness NOT year levels
6. That the Diocese of Rockhampton will continue to implement the Parish based approach to Sacraments.
7. That a series of in-services will be given in all regions in 2012 to revisit the role of the Parish based Sacraments team
8. That a full appreciation of the Children attending States School be kept in mind when preparing children for the Sacraments of Initiation.
9. That the role of the Catholic School is clearly spelt out in the context of the Parish based process
10. That the role of the APRE is explored.

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Brian Heenan
Bishop of Rockhampton