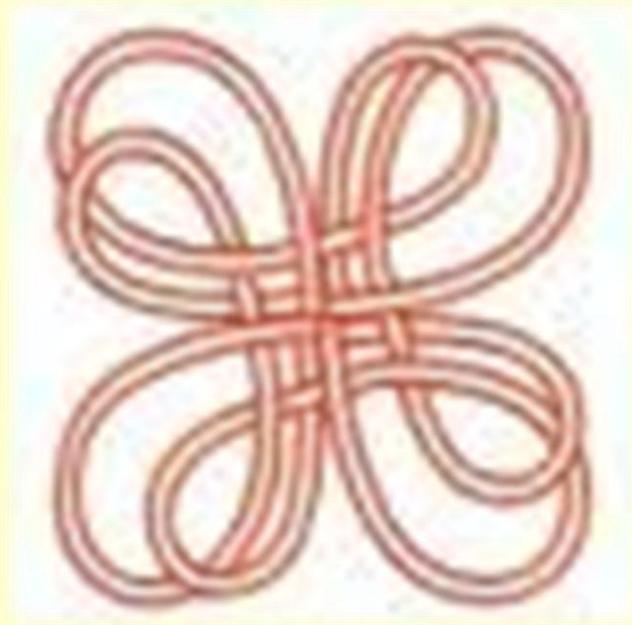


LITURGICAL RITES



on the way
to the completion of
Christian Initiation for Children

INTRODUCTION

The celebration of various preparatory rites suggested in this book are intended for children preparing for the sacrament of Penance, the sacrament of Confirmation and the reception of first Holy Communion.

These minor liturgical rites involve both parents and children, and in which they can participate with meaningful understanding.

The rites help the parents and children to experience a deeper insertion into the community of faith that is the parish.

By means of these celebrations the gradual character of Christian Initiation is more fully appreciated both by children and parents, as well as the parish community.

The celebration of these rites compliments the work of ongoing catechesis which takes place in homes, schools and parishes.

Through the celebration of these rites the whole parish community is called to reflect on their own faith journey.

THE CELEBRATIONS

The celebration of these rites are informed by the Rites of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and the Rite of Infant Baptism.

IN YEAR 3 – Preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

FIRST PREPARATORY RITE – SIGNING with the CROSS

The first celebration, *Signing with the Cross*, recalls the time when these children were marked with the cross at their baptism and re-affirms the central role of parents as first teachers in the ways of faith.

This is celebrated in the year of preparation for the sacrament of reconciliation.

It makes sense then to connect this with the grace of baptism.

The community prays with and for the children and their parents as they embark on this new stage in the journey.

SECOND PREPARATORY RITE – Rite of Illumination

The next celebration is called the *Rite of Illumination*. This was from ancient times a phrase used to describe the effects of baptism.

This is an opportunity to connect into that moment in infant baptism when parents are asked to keep the flame of faith alive in the hearts of their children.

The parish community joins with the parents and children in praying that they will continue to walk in the light of Christ.

IN YEAR 4 – Preparing for Confirmation and First Holy Communion

FIRST PREPARATORY RITE – Rite of Enrolment

In the year of preparation for Confirmation there is a Rite of Enrolment.

This is inspired by the RCIA Rite of Enrolment where candidates hear their names called for the sacraments.

Here the children are called by name to take part in the period of preparation leading to celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation and the completion of their initiation.

PRESENTATIONS

In the RCIA there are also Rites called the Presentations, where the faith Tradition of the Church is presented to adult candidates. These Presentations are adapted for use with children who are completing their Christian Initiation in this year.

SECOND PREPARATORY RITE – The Presentation of the Gospel

Here there is a Presentation of the Gospel where the children are presented with a copy of the Gospel of the liturgical year as they further embrace a Gospel way of life.

THIRD PREPARATORY RITE – The Presentation of the Creed

There is also a Presentation of the Creed, inspired by the RCIA, where the children are given their opportunity to say a yes to all we believe.

FOURTH PREPARATORY RITE – The Presentation of the Our Father

Finally there is a Presentation of the Our Father, from earliest times this was presented to candidates for baptism representing our tradition of prayer. Here it is presented to the children as the model of all Christian prayer, the prayer that is prayed each time the community gathers.

THE ROLE of PARENTS

In the Rite of Baptism parents are named as the first and best teachers of their children in the ways of faith.

The Rites we have prepared call parents to their responsibility, sometimes this responsibility applies to a guardian or grandparent, in this case the word ‘parent’ also applies to them.

Signing with the Cross



PURPOSE of this RITE

- To recall the moment of infant baptism
- To give parents the opportunity to publicly state their intention of taking on their responsibility
- To strengthen the children on their journey of preparation
- To provide the children with a crucifix for home use

PREPARATION

You will need:

- *List of names of the families*
- *List of names of the children*
- *Crucifixes for each child*
- *A5 service sheets for the congregation*

SUGGESTED TIME of CELEBRATION

In year 3

Sometime before Advent at Sunday Mass

Rite of Illumination



PURPOSE of this RITE

- To connect once more with the ritual of infant baptism
- To give parents a further opportunity to affirm their child's faith journey and support it
- To help the child see the connection between living baptism daily and walking in the light of Christ
- To strengthen the children on their journey of preparation

PREPARATION

You will need:

- *List of names of the families*
- *Paschal candle placed beside the ambo*
- *Holy Water*
- *Baptismal candle to show children*
- *Candles or night-lights for the candidates*
- *Matches and taper*

SUGGESTED TIME of CELEBRATION

In year 3

Around the time of Candlemas at Sunday Mass

Rite of Enrolment



PURPOSE of this RITE

- To welcome the children who have been accepted for the completion of their initiation
- To connect this with the call of God
- To write their names in the Parish Book of Enrolment
- To pray for the children and their families at this stage on their journey
- To give parish support to the families

PREPARATION

- List of names of the families
- List of names of the candidates
- Name card for each candidate
- A Book for the Enrolment
- Good Pen
- Service sheets for the congregation

SUGGESTED TIME of CELEBRATION

In Year 4

At the beginning of the preparation period for Confirmation and first reception of Holy Communion circa September/October

Presentation of the Gospels



PURPOSE of this RITE

- To celebrate the gift of God's word to us
- To provide the children with a copy of the Gospels
- To pray that the children will grow in their love of scripture
- To affirm the children on this stage of their journey of faith
- To encourage parents to reflect with their children using scripture

PREPARATION

You will need:

- List of names of the families
- Name cards of the children for the priest
- One copy each of the Gospel for the liturgical year
- Service sheets for the congregation

SUGGESTED TIME of CELEBRATION

In primary 4

November before the season of Advent at Sunday Mass

Presentation of the Creed



PURPOSE of this RITE

- To present the faith of the Church to children for their acceptance
- To provide the children with a copy of the Creed
- To pray that the children will grow in their love of our faith
- To affirm the children on this stage of their journey of faith
- To encourage parents to pass on the faith of the Church to their children

PREPARATION

You will need:

- List of names of the families
- Name cards of the children for the priest
- One copy each of the Creed
- Service sheets for the congregation

SUGGESTED TIME of CELEBRATION

In YEAR 4

Between January and February at Sunday Mass

Presentation of the Our Father



PURPOSE of this RITE

- To present the prayer tradition of the Church to children
- To provide the children with a copy of the Our Father
- To pray that the children will grow in their life of prayer
- To affirm the children on this stage of their journey of faith
- To encourage parents to pray regularly with their children

PREPARATION

You will need:

- List of names of the families
- Name cards of the children for the priest
- One copy each of the Our Father
- Service sheets for the congregation

SUGGESTED TIME of CELEBRATION

In YEAR 4

During Lent at Sunday Mass

TEMPLATES for all of the RITES

Each of the following Rites are available on the Archdiocesan Website under Pastoral Resources/ Resources and Documents:

- The Signing with the Cross
- The Rite of Illumination
- The Rite of Enrolment
- The Presentation of the Gospel
- The Presentation of the Creed
- The Presentation of the Our Father

SAMPLE SACRAMENTAL JOURNEY

In the suggested sacramental journey there are suggested timings for these celebrations to take place in the parish, which can be adapted to each particular situation.

In conjunction with this, in light of the findings of the Archdiocesan Review of Christian Initiation of Children, it is also strongly recommended that Parent Support Meetings are put in place. Booklets and Power Point Presentations for parish catechists to provide these sessions are also available on the Archdiocesan Website. If your parish is not already providing this kind of catechetical support we suggest that you begin by building this up with Year 3 parents, then in the following year add in the Year 4 parents sessions. If your parish needs to form a team to deliver this please contact patricia.carroll@staned.org.uk who can come to the parish to provide training.

In the sample sacramental journey it is also suggested that Year 3 parents are helped to experience the sacrament of reconciliation for themselves in the seasons of Advent and Lent before their child makes their first confession, following on in Year 4 with further encouragement to take part in Parish Celebrations of Reconciliation.

PARENTS RETREATS - Sr. Kathleen Curran and Juliet McKellaig are available for Parents Retreat days, please contact Patricia for more information.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION – THIS IS OUR FAITH recommends that children experience this regularly in their parish setting. In this sample sacramental journey it is suggested that a specific celebration takes place around the time of Corpus Christi gathering all who have been newly initiated in a family celebration.

Sample Sacramental Journey FOR CIC

YEAR 3 – Preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Time & Season	Liturgical Rite	Parents Support Meeting	Sacrament
September YEAR 3		Introduction to the Sacramental Journey	
October YEAR 3	Signing with the Cross		
November YEAR 3		1 st Parents Catechesis on the Sacrament of Reconciliation	Advent Family Celebration of God's love and forgiveness
February YEAR 3	Rite of Illumination with Baptismal Candle		
March YEAR 3		2 nd Parents Catechesis on the Sacrament of Reconciliation	Lent Family Celebration of God's love and forgiveness
April YEAR 3			Eastertide 1 st Celebration of Reconciliation

YEAR 4 – COMPLETION of INITIATION

Time & Season	Liturgical Rite	Parents Support Meeting	Sacrament
September/ October YEAR 4	Rite of Enrolment	1 st Parents Catechesis Introduction to the Completion of Initiation	
November YEAR 4	Presentation of the Gospels		
December YEAR 4			Parish Celebration of Reconciliation
January YEAR 4	Presentation of the Creed		
February YEAR 4		2 nd Parents Catechesis on Completion of Initiation	
March YEAR 4	Presentation of the Our Father		Lent Parish Celebration of Reconciliation
April YEAR 4		Parents Retreat Time	
Ascension to Corpus Christi YEAR 4			Confirmation and Reception of 1 st Holy Communion
Post Corpus Christi YEAR 4		Celebrating Together	Opportunity to experience Exposition