

ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA - DIOCESE OF TASMANIA

ADMISSION OF CHILDREN TO HOLY COMMUNION ORDINANCE 1986

(Amended 1991)

BE IT ENACTED by the Bishop, Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Tasmania in Synod assembled as follows:

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the Admission of Children to Holy Communion Ordinance 1986.
2. WHEREAS at the First Session of the Forty-Third Synod, Canon No 6, 1985 of General Synod providing for the admission of children to Holy Communion was adopted;

AND WHEREAS it was then resolved that notwithstanding the adoption of the said Canon, it should not come into force in this Diocese until such times as

- a) the Synod makes regulations to order the new practice, and
- b) the Diocesan Board of Christian Education prepares resource material for use in parishes once the practice begins;

AND WHEREAS regulations to order the new practice have been formulated and resource material prepared;

NOW THEREFORE children may, subject to the provisions of the following regulations and in accordance with diocesan policy, be admitted to Holy Communion prior to Confirmation.

Regulations (Amended 1991)

3. Diocesan practice shall be:
 1. The admission of children to Holy Communion, after appropriate preparation.
 2. First Communion will be acknowledged during the Service.
 3. The Incumbent will keep an up-to-date register of persons admitted to Holy Communion in each Church and Chapel.
 4. A Communicant's Certificate will be presented to each person admitted to communion.
 5. The Incumbent is required to have sighted a baptismal certificate or other written evidence of baptism before admitting a person to communion.
 6. Once admitted to Communion, the communicant must be accepted in all Churches and Chapels of the Diocese.
 7. Suggested practices to be adopted are set out in the Schedule hereto.

Preparation

8. There will be a period of preparation which shall include a minimum of a year's regular participation in worship with parent(s).
9. Children without parental support may also be admitted to Communion provided they are linked to a worshipping family or worshipping group. Parental consent of a nature appropriate to the family situation must be obtained prior to any action being taken.
10. The Diocesan policy for admission to communion shall be adhered to.

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11. The Incumbent has the responsibility for preparing each child, in the family context. It is understood that this responsibility will be shared with the parents and others.
12. If any doubt or dispute shall arise with respect to any matter mentioned in this Ordinance the same shall be determined by the Bishop whose decision shall be final.

Schedule

Suggested practices to be adopted:

- (a) Parish consultation;
- (b) An educational programme for the parish;
- (c) A close look at, and modification of, present baptismal and confirmation practices;
- (d) Education is to be a continuing concern;
- (e) There is to be a continuing concern for the nurture of child, parents and congregation;
- (f) Educational material is to be assessed and/or prepared by the D.B.C.E.;
- (g) Children in worship and the place of Sunday School will need consideration;
- (h) Suggestions will be given as to appropriate ways of admitting and welcoming children to first communion;
- (i) Those worshippers who are not yet communicants will continue to be encouraged to come to the altar rail for a blessing;
- (j) Confirmation at a mature age is to be actively encouraged.