



# Changes in the Way We Celebrate Sacraments

In recent years in the Archdiocese of Liverpool, most Catholics have been baptised as babies, made their First Communion around age seven and been confirmed as teenagers.



These three sacraments make up the process of belonging to the Church (called Christian Initiation). The sacraments weren't always in that order, and adults preparing for initiation have always received them in the original order: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist (Communion).

From September 2012 in this Archdiocese, children who have been baptised will follow that same order. Those aged eight by the first of September 2012 will be invited to receive Confirmation and First

Communion in the days between Ascension Sunday and the Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) in 2013, and the same pattern will be followed each year after that.

The families of these children will be invited to explore and celebrate Reconciliation with their children during Advent each year, while teenagers and their families will be invited to explore and celebrate Reconciliation during Lent each year.

The bishops will preside at some of the celebrations of Confirmation and Communion (with priests delegated to confirm at the other celebrations) and at some of the celebrations of Reconciliation with teenagers and their families.



At the same time the way children are prepared for these sacraments will change. Instead of teachers, catechists and priests teaching children and parents about the sacraments, they will help the parents (and grandparents) to hand on the faith to their children, fulfilling the privileges and responsibilities expressed in the Rite of Baptism. New resources will help parents to prepare their own children for these sacraments with the support of the local church community.

These changes are meant to help us understand that sacraments are gifts of God's grace, that parents are the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith, and that we are all called to get to

know Jesus better throughout our life's journey.

To find out more about this, visit the Archdiocesan website [www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk](http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk) and click on 'Order of the Sacraments of Initiation'.





## **September 2011 to August 2012**

### **A Year of Preparation and Transition**

- No First Communions in most parishes because moving to Year 4 (8/9)
- June 2011: Launch and Formation Week
- Sept 2011: Launching the Family Catechesis model with focus on Baptism and Reconciliation
- Confirmations through the year for those aged 8+
- Lent 2012: Reconciliation services for teenagers and families, with bishops in some areas
- Feast of Saints Peter and Paul (29 June 2012): school celebrations



## **September 2012 – August 2013**

### **The First Year of the Restored Order**

- Some Confirmations of those aged 8+ will take place during the year
- Advent 2012: Family Reconciliation for children 8/9 (Year 4) and their families
- Lent 2013: Reconciliation services for teenagers and families, with bishops in some pastoral areas
- Ascension to Corpus Christi: Celebrations of Confirmation and Communion with a bishop in each pastoral area (12 May 2013 – 2 June 2013)
- Feast of Saints Peter and Paul (1 July 2013): school celebrations



## **September 2013 – August 2014 and following years**

### **The Restored Order is now the Norm for Everyone**

- Advent 2013: Family Reconciliation for children 8/9 (Year 4) and their families
- Lent 2014: Reconciliation services for teenagers and families, with bishops in some pastoral areas
- Ascension to Corpus Christi: Celebrations of Confirmation and Communion with a bishop in each pastoral area (1 June 2014 – 22 June 2014)
- Feast of Saints Peter and Paul (30 June 2014): school celebrations