

## CHILDREN AND COMMUNION

The traditional pattern of admission to Holy Communion after Confirmation may be followed by those parishes which consider it appropriate to their circumstances, or baptized children may be admitted to Holy Communion as provided in the August 1977 Memorial to the House of Bishops. Parishioners may make a request to a Rector/Parish for admittance of baptized children, which must be responded to pastorally. Such admission of baptized children to Holy Communion will require:

- (1) a. careful and intensive preparation of the parishioners;  
b. the will of the parish can be expressed through the Vestry.  
c. the explicit authorization from the Bishop for the introduction of the practice in the parish.
- (2) Provision for the integration of children into the regular worship services of the parish.
- (3) Admission to Communion only after consultation between the parents, child, and parish priest at a time when the child is able to make a simple affirmation of faith, and after suitable instruction in the meaning of the Eucharist. Decisions on admission will be made only on an individual basis and in response to a deepened spiritual life.
- (4) The priest shall help the parish understand the alternate pattern regarding children and Communion by encouraging them to make a positive decision to implement the practice in accordance with these guidelines. The Parish Vestry shall sponsor a major educational programme regarding children and Communion.
- (5) A baptized child shall become a communicant with the full consent of the parent(s), guardian(s), who shall be regular in their attendance at Communion. Children whose parents are not regular might make Communion at the priest's discretion and with the parent(s), guardian(s) permission, and by association or sponsorship of devout parishioners or Godparents.
- (6) Parent(s), guardian(s) or other adults who accept responsibility for supervising children at Communion must attend a Christian Formation Programme, e.g. Life in the Eucharist.
- (7) Each baptized child who becomes a communicant will be welcomed and shall receive a certificate. His/her name shall be recorded by an entry using pages within the Confirmation Register.

- (8) Normally at least one parent or guardian should be with younger children at each reception. The children should be present at least from the offertory if they are making their Communion. Children shall be communicated in both kinds.
- (9) Every officiant will immediately welcome to Communion any baptized child who is a communicant in another parish, or who relocates in their parish. It is an Anglican principle that a communicant in one part of the Anglican Communion is a communicant in all parts of the Communion.

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