



Stable Faculty for Confirmation.

For 25 Years, this Diocese has celebrated the restored method of Confirmation and Holy Communion. Diocesan Policy on the Sacraments, promulgated by Bishop Denis, has not changed under Bishop Steve. Consequently, this policy retains the force of Law, until reviewed by me sometime in the future. (see www.cdh.org.nz/policy)

I am aware of the many times Bishop Steve could not appear for Confirmation and Communion around the Diocese. I note already that I have to be in Rome during a month when some parishes are celebrating Confirmation & Communion. I wish to make things simpler to continue to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation in its proper time and space and according to the mind of the Church. Preparation for Confirmation must also include preparation for the Holy Eucharist. After reconciliation has been celebrated, “Both sacraments will be conferred on candidates who have reached the age of discretion within a common ceremony.” (*cf.* Sacramental Policy)
The age of reason (or discretion) is presumed around the 7th birthday of the child (Can 11).

In order to facilitate operation in the diversity of the Diocese, Therefore:

I extend to all Pastors in the Diocese, the habitual faculty of Confirmation of all people who were baptised in infancy and now are preparing to complete their initiation.

This Faculty is exercised if Bishop is unable to attend Confirmation himself.

The Bishop is still the Ordinary Minister of Confirmation. By all means co-ordinate with the bishop for the celebration. If he cannot come then Pastors may proceed with preparation, catechesis and celebration. Refer to your Faculty Sheet for other situations where a priest already has faculty to confirm.

This faculty will allow pastors to choose the best times to celebrate the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Communion according to the needs of the Parish. Some may choose to have it 2x a year, or celebrate across all masses on a Sunday or two Sundays in a row. It is worth noting that Pope St Pius X suggested that Children’s Communion Celebrations might be several times a year, according to the needs of the children. (*cf.* Quam Singulari no.5)

Given In Hamilton on 28 May 2024


✠ **Richard Laurensen JCL**
Bishop of Hamilton, NZ

In Effect 28 June 2024.

Promulgation: on Diocesan Website and Email to Priests.


D McGirr
Chancellor