

Dear Friends,

The recent restrictions due to COVID-19 have prevented many significant church ceremonies over the last three months. The most significant was the Easter Vigil when the Elect in our catechumenate would have received the sacraments of Initiation, and our candidates would have been received into full communion.

As the COVID-19 restrictions are easing, communities are once again able to gather. We are now able to plan the steps – a new roadmap – for the initiation for our Elect and the reception of our candidates into full communion.

From July 10, Stage Three of the Queensland Government's restrictions will allow up to 100 people to attend Mass. With this in mind, the timeline below outlines proposed dates to celebrate the rites of initiation. It might be symbolic to have parishes in the diocese celebrating these rites at the same time.

The proposed dates include the celebration of the three scrutinies that would normally have occurred during the season of Lent and the celebration of the sacraments of initiation. The dates were chosen due to the highly appropriate nature of the assigned readings of the day for Christian Initiation. If alternative dates are chosen for pastoral reasons, the texts of the scrutinies would need to be adapted.

Please note that candidates for full reception into the Church can be received at any time that is pastorally and liturgically appropriate.

Below is the suggested timeline for the path to initiation.

Sunday 12 July - 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

CELEBRATION OF THE FIRST SCRUTINY

If your parish has not celebrated the First Scrutiny with the Elect, celebrate this on Sunday 12 July during the regular parish Mass.

(If your parish has already celebrated the First Scrutiny, there is no need to repeat it.)

The readings for the Mass of the day are pastorally appropriate and it is recommended that these be used.

The ritual for Mass on Sunday 12th July, including the First Scrutiny, is attached.

Sunday 19 July – 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

CELEBRATION OF THE SECOND SCRUTINY

In parishes where the Second Scrutiny has not been celebrated, it is recommended that this be celebrated with the Elect during the regular parish Mass on Sunday 19 July.

The readings for the Mass of the day are pastorally appropriate and it is recommended that these be used.

The ritual for Mass on Sunday 19 July 2020, including the Second Scrutiny, is attached

Sunday 26 July – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

CELEBRATION OF THE THIRD SCRUTINY

The celebration of the Third Scrutiny can be celebrated during the regular parish Mass on Sunday 26 July using the readings of the day.

The ritual for Mass on Sunday 26 July 2020, including the Third Scrutiny, is attached

Saturday 1 August – Preparation for Sacraments of Initiation

As part of the final preparation for receiving the sacraments, it is recommended to gather with the Elect for a time of reflection, discernment and prayer on Saturday 1 August. This is an appropriate time for the Presentation of the Creed (RCIA 135) and the Presentation of the Lord's Prayer (RCIA 136) if this has not already occurred. The anointing with the Oil of Catechumens could also take place on this occasion if it was not added to the Third Scrutiny.

Sunday 2 August – 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

During the Sunday Masses (including Saturday evening), celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation for the Elect and reception of the baptised into full communion.

The ritual for Mass on Sunday 2 August, including the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation is attached. (Do not use the rites of the Easter Vigil.)

The readings of the day are pastorally appropriate so should be used.

Confirmation is to be administered thumb to forehead, and in group situations the priest should sanitise after each confirmation.

These celebrations have come later this year as it has been a time like no other but it is with great joy that we look to celebrating these sacraments within our parish communities.

These resources have been prepared for the diocese by Liturgy Brisbane.

Should you have any questions, please contact Clare Schwantes at Liturgy Brisbane on 07 3324 3313 or Lisa McKerr at Evangelisation Brisbane on 07 3324 3458.

We continue to pray for you and your ministry to your communities.