

# Regulations for the Admission of Children to the Lord's Supper

*Regulations made on 28 May 2010 by the Archbishop of Sydney under clause 3(1) of the Schedule to the General Synod - Admission of Children to Holy Communion Canon 1985 Adopting Ordinance 1997.*

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### Background

1. In October, 1997 the Synod of the Diocese of Sydney passed legislation which enabled children to be admitted to the Lord's Supper prior to their Confirmation. The relevant wording of this canon is as follows –

“A child who has been baptised but who has not been confirmed, is eligible to be admitted to the Holy Communion if the minister is satisfied that the child has been adequately instructed, gives evidence of appropriate understanding of the nature and meaning of the Holy Communion and has fulfilled the conditions of repentance and faith; and if the child with the sponsorship of his or her parents or of other confirmed members of the congregation, seeks admission while awaiting Confirmation.”

### Adoption by the parish

2. Before the practice of admitting children to the Lord's Supper, prior to their Confirmation, is commenced in a parish, the parish council must agree to its implementation, on the recommendation of the minister. It is expected that the congregation will have received some explanation of and teaching concerning this practice.

### Procedure for Admission

3. The circumstances in which young children may be admitted to the Lord's Supper, in addition to the relevant section of the canon cited above, should normally be the following –

- (a) The child shows a personal desire to share in the Lord's Supper.
- (b) The parents and the minister agree upon the age and suitability of the child seeking admission to the Lord's Supper.
- (c) The parents and the child receive instruction about the Lord's Supper, as approved by the minister.
- (d) The parents and the child are informed that this practice is not a replacement of Confirmation, and that the child should be confirmed at the appropriate age.
- (e) The parents or guardians are communicant members of the congregation.

4. There should be no special rite to mark the occasion of a child's admission to the Lord's Supper.

### Inter-Parish Policies

5. Where a child has been admitted to the Lord's Supper in one parish, and subsequently visits or moves to another parish, the parents of the child should seek the goodwill of the minister of the new parish to enable the child to continue coming to the Lord's Table. It is expected that ministers will not deny the Lord's Supper to such children, noting the confirmation rubric concerning those “ready and desirous” though not yet confirmed. However, should difficulties arise, the matter should be referred to the regional bishop.

### Extra-Parochial Situations

6. Ministers involved in extra-parochial situations should seek the advice of their regional bishop for the application of these regulations to their own context.