



# Diocese of Shrewsbury

CHANCERY OFFICE

## GUIDELINES relating to the Reception of Adults and Children of Catechetical Age into Full Communion with the Catholic Church.

For UNBAPTISED candidates:

- ❖ Except in danger of death or other extra-ordinary circumstances the RCIA should be used.

For BAPTISED members of other churches

- ❖ The RCIA should be consulted for guidance on the most appropriate preparation and liturgical celebration.
- ❖ A recently issued certificate of baptism should be obtained
- ❖ The validity of baptism administered in other Christian communions has been acknowledged where it has been administered in a Trinitarian form. “Dedication” or “Naming” ceremonies are not a forms of baptism (in cases of doubt, contact the Chancery)
- ❖ When an authentic certificate or affidavit testifying to baptism is presented, no reasonable doubt can be presumed and therefore no “conditional baptism” is to be administered

For CHILDREN OF CATECHETICAL AGE

- ❖ Written permission of the child’s parent(s) or guardian(s) is required
- ❖ Children aged 7-14 should be prepared and received according to the rites for Children of Catechetical Age
- ❖ For children aged 14-18 an appropriate form of the rites for adults can be used.

OTHER POINTS

- ❖ The rite of Reception should ordinarily take place in the parish in which the candidate resides. Otherwise, the consent of the proper parish priest or the ordinary should be obtained.
- ❖ The teaching and discipline of the Church regarding divorce and re-marriage should be observed in assessing the suitability of adult candidates. The Marriage Tribunal can sometimes provide help in this area.
- ❖ It is important to ensure that proper records are kept for all baptisms and receptions into full communion. Each parish should have a **Register of Receptions** in which details are carefully noted. The details of baptism of a previously baptised person should be included in this record.