

RE: Procedure if a Catechumen cannot attend the Rite of Election with the Bishop

In accord with the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* it is important to note that the Rite of Election is not optional and is always celebrated publicly. It is the Church which makes the Election.

Occasionally a catechumen who is ready to celebrate their Christian Initiation at Easter is unable to participate in the diocesan Rite of Election, held annually on the First Sunday of Lent in the Cathedral with the Bishop presiding.

In such cases, it is necessary to proceed as follows.:

- Admission to Election belongs to the bishop due to the solemnity of the occasion. (RCIA 108)
- The Bishop's permission and delegation must be obtained to celebrate the 'Rite of Election' for any catechumens unable to participate in the diocesan event. This is to be organised by the parish priest who contacts the Bishop's Office to request the delegation.
- Such an alternate parish celebration must reflect the solemnity of the diocesan event. It may take place either during Mass or a Liturgy of the Word, on Sunday or a weekday. See RCIA 113 - 115
- In making such alternate arrangements it is important to ensure that the period of Purification and Enlightenment is not unduly diminished.
- Whatever the liturgical form the Rite of Election takes, the Bishop's delegate is the presider. (RCIA 108)

You may find this Team RCIA resource helpful: [What if a catechumen misses the Rite of Election? \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

If you require further assistance, please contact Fiona Duque: fiona.duque1@mn.catholic.org.au

Christian Initiation Forum

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