

THE
SACRAMENT
OF BAPTISM
FOR CHILDREN



Many thanks for enquiring about the sacrament of Baptism for your child.

These are notes about our sharing together in this sacrament and the mutual undertakings we commit to.

We hope these notes help you prepare prayerfully for this happy celebration, and enjoy it all the more as the joyful occasion that it is.

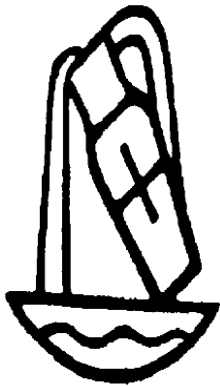
1. As part of the preparation for baptism a few details are required and a form is attached. Please fill it in and send it back to the presbytery.
2. The form includes a declaration that you as a parent are asked to sign. It affirms the commitment that you publicly make during the Baptism ceremony to undertake the responsibility of bringing up your child “in the ways of the faith”.
3. These responsibilities are summarized below. They go together, and each has equal importance to the others:
 - creating and sustaining a Christian family, based in love, commitment and Catholic values;
 - ensuring a Christian education for your child, often through attending Catholic school, as well as through home catechesis and learning;
 - participation in your local Catholic parish, especially through regular attendance at Sunday Mass and presenting your child at the due time for the sacraments of Holy Communion, Confession and Confirmation.
4. We, as every Catholic parish, will do all we can to support you in each and all of these undertakings. Please let us know at any time what we can do to help you.
5. In choosing Godparents, please ensure that at least one of your child’s Godparents is a practicing Catholic.

Also, that those who are not practicing Catholics are willing, in good conscience, to make the baptismal promises and to undertake to support you in the obligations and responsibilities of Christian parenthood.

There is no maximum number of Godparents.

As your child grows, please encourage those you choose as Godparents to share with you over the coming years in the undertakings solemnly and publicly made at this celebration.

6. During the Baptism ceremony you will be asked to:



- *give* a Christian name to your child,
- *pronounce* your own faith and repeat your baptismal promises,
- *confirm* you understand all your duties of Christian parenthood,
- *commit* to bringing up your child in the ways and practice of the faith,
- *agree* therefore that this baptism takes place.

7. During the Baptism ceremony your child will be:



- *named and traced* with the sign of the Cross,
- *anointed* on the neck in preparation for baptism,
- *baptized* with water (3 pouring's over the head),
- *anointed* on the head with Chrism,
- *presented* with the white garment you bring,
- *receive* a candle lit from the Paschal Candle,
- *blessed* on the mouth and ears.

8. The Godparents you have chosen will be asked to:

- *share* with you in giving a Christian name to your child,
- *commit* to supporting you in being a Christian parent,
- *pronounce* their baptismal promises (or their content),
- *agree* with you to this baptism taking place,
- *pass on* the light of faith, by lighting a candle from the Paschal Candle for your child (one Godparent only)

9. At the end of the baptism ceremony you will be blessed to support you as a Christian parent and receive a certificate affirming that this happy celebration has taken place.

The celebration will be recorded in the Baptismal Register of St Joseph's or St Patrick's and will be available in the future when your child comes to be confirmed, if and when they marry, or are ordained a priest or deacon, or enter religious life.

10. There are very few restrictions on photographing or videoing during and after the celebration. This will be explained at the beginning of the ceremony.

11. It is customary on the occasion of a Baptism to make an offering to the Church. This can be gift-aided if you are a tax payer, please ask for details.

Above all please approach and enjoy this ceremony, and the preparation for it, as a prayerful celebration of the new life which has been entrusted to your care by God the Father of us All.

