

The Sacrament of Baptism

What do we need to do?



**Our Lady & All Saints
Catholic Church
Stourbridge**

Please take time to read this brochure carefully and thoroughly.

Congratulations!

We are delighted you wish your child to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

This is an opportunity for your family and friends to celebrate the gift of your child. This is also a celebration for the Church as we receive a new member into the Church, which is the family of God, and into our parish community.

This little brochure will provide you with some information to help you to prepare for this important day. The focus of attention will be, of course, on your child. However, your role as parents, and the role of the godparents you choose for your child, are very much part of the celebration. Try to find godparents who will be examples of faith for your child – must be Catholics who are practising their faith and will have received all the sacraments of initiation. (Baptism, Holy Communion & Confirmation).
(See further additional information below)

Now, let's think about what we are celebrating. We call to mind the day when Jesus was baptised. He heard the words of his Heavenly Father, 'You are my Beloved Son, my favour rests on you.' From this day forward, Our Lord leaves his home and begins the work which his Father has given him to do the work of proclaiming God's Kingdom. This work was not easy. Jesus did not always meet with acceptance and faith! Eventually, his journey took him to the Cross. He died in obedience to the Father's will so that we might have eternal life in Heaven. We believe that Jesus rose again on Easter Day. This was the moment when those words spoken by the Father at the River Jordan became even more meaningful. It was part of God's plan that Jesus should die and rise again for our salvation.





The baptismal font is the place where your child will receive the new life that Christ Jesus has won for us in his dying and rising. Baptism is the gateway to new life in God's Kingdom. In the waters of the font, original sin is destroyed and your child will rise again to a new life. It is through faith that we take hold of this new life.

The best gift you can give your child this day is the witness and example of faith your child needs to begin their own journey of faith. The Sacrament of Baptism is the first of three sacraments of initiation into the life of God's Family, the Church. Later, your child will receive Jesus in Holy Communion. Then, your child will be Confirmed with the power of the Holy Spirit. In the meantime, your joyful faith is crucial.

Preparing for your Child's Baptism

- 1) **In the first instance** complete the attached application form as far as possible and then **bringing the application form with you,** **speaking directly with the parish priest or Deacon Tom immediately after weekend Mass**
- 2) You will be asked to produce a copy of your Baptismal certificate. (Catholic Parent). You will then be booked on to the first available baptism preparation programme. This consists of two evening sessions 7.00pm-8.30pm on Thursdays to prepare parents to celebrate this important sacrament with their child.
- 3) Upon full completion of this programme you will be asked to contact the Parish Secretary to arrange a date for your child's baptism.
- 4) Finally the Sacrament of Baptism is received by your child and celebrated by you and your family and friends

There are a few important things to remember....

At least one parent of the child must be a baptised Catholic. A copy of the baptism certificate must be provided, so please remember to find out your baptism details.

Only the names of two Catholic Godparents will be entered into the Baptism Register and on the Baptism Certificate, so think about who they will be. You may have other witnesses who are baptised Christians alongside them on the day.

Try and choose Godparents who you think will provide a good role-model of faith. Remember; they must have received the Sacrament of Confirmation and be practising Catholics and at least 16years of age. If you choose two, then there must be one of each, male and female, and both reach the same criteria as above.

It is important that your child is given a Saint's name for their baptism, (if they haven't already got one in their registered name). This has always been the Church's tradition and the idea is that the Saint will be a role-model for your child.

On the day of baptism please bring along a White garment to put on your child (usually a shawl)

A commemorative Baptism candle will be given to you on the day and a Certificate of Baptism issued in due course

***TO ENABLE AND SUPPORT THE WORK OF YOUR PARISH, IT IS USUAL FOR THE PARENTS, IF THEY ARE ABLE, TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATE OFFERING (SUGGESTED MINIMUM £40) ON THE OCCASION OF YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISM ***

Finally, Fr. Des or Deacon Tom will be only too pleased to help you in the years ahead!

**The Parish baptismal Preparation programme
takes place at:**

**The Parish Centre
Our Lady & All Saints Catholic Church
13, New Road
Stourbridge
DY8 1PQ**

01384 395308

Thursdays 7.00pm-8.30 pm by prior arrangement