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## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this short article on Baptism is to familiarise people in a simplified manner with the importance, purpose and overall effect, that Baptism has on a child, the child's parents and family.

Baptism is the Beginning of a New Life. When a child's baptism has been completed, a new life has been born into the Catholic Church. Parents, family and priest alike should experience satisfaction and joy. The child's baptism not only means an entry, i.e a new beginning for a child in Christ's Church, but also perhaps, more importantly, the baptism of a child marks the beginning of that child's life with Christ. This Sacrament is the beginning of a journey with family and the Christian community. The next two steps which lead to full incorporation into the Church will be Confirmation and Holy Communion.



## PARENTS

It is truly wonderful to be the instrument of new life. You are now preparing to have your child baptised, to introduce him or her to God's life and the life of the Christian community. In this you have just as an essential role as you had in the birth of your son or daughter. As parents, it will be your privilege and responsibility to ensure that your child is raised in the knowledge and practice of the Catholic Church.

## GOD-PARENTS (Sponsors)

The god-parents have the **honour** and **privilege** to assist the parents in presenting the child for baptism and to speak in his/her name. They share the responsibility of helping the child to grow and mature in the Christian life.

God-parents share a role. Theirs is not merely an honorary title. Parents should choose their child's god-parents carefully.

Church law requires that **at least one sponsor be a Catholic**. Where there is more than one sponsor, or a number of sponsors, there must be a mixture of each sex (Refer Canon Law 874). In the case of Catholic sponsors it is desirable that they be practising members of the faith.

## BAPTISM PREPARATION

Parents are required to purchase a copy of 'Your Baby's Baptism' from the Parish Office - cost \$10.00 - when baptising the first child in the family.

Upon receipt of completed enrolment form and questionnaire the date of your child's Baptism will be confirmed.

Parents need to attend a **Preparation Evening** which will be held the Wednesday prior to the Baptism at 7.30pm in the Church Meeting Room.

## THE RITE OF BAPTISM

From March 2018, Baptisms are held on the **second Sunday** of each month at **11.30am**. You are asked to be at the Church at **11.15am**. The rite of baptism abounds in signs, symbols and prayers recalling this new birth through the waters of baptism. Parents presenting their child for baptism, where possible, should be familiar with this rite, through the easy reading of 'Your Baby's Baptism', in order to enhance deeper understanding and to encourage the fullest possible participation on the baptismal day.

## **BAPTISMAL CANDLE**

Many families are accustomed to bringing to the ceremony a white baptismal candle, to be kept by the child as a reminder that he/she has the privilege of bringing Christ's life to others. This candle may be adorned with ribbon or it may be painted with a suitable baptismal motif. It may, for example, bear the child's Christian name and date of baptism.

## **WHITE GARMENT**

The ceremony makes provision for clothing in a white garment, immediately following the pouring of water and anointing.

The garment is an outward sign of Christian dignity and of putting on the new person, who has become a new creation.

## **OFFERING**

It is customary to make an offering to the church on such occasions. This is not a fixed amount and is left to the discretion of the couple. As a guide \$50.00 is suggested. This offering does not go to the Priest. It is placed in the church central diocesan funds.

## **BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE**

This will be given to the parents at the conclusion of the ceremony. You are advised to keep it in a safe place as it will be required at such times as the commencement of school and at the celebration of future sacraments.

**Fr. Peter Lamont**  
**Parish Priest**



... the Sacrament  
of  
Belonging