

BAPTISM AND YOUR CHILD

Congratulations and thank you for asking to have your child baptised

Baptism is the sacrament by which we share in the life death and resurrection of Jesus and become members of his Church. Through this sacrament, your child becomes one with Christ and shares in becoming an adopted brother or sister of Christ. In Baptism with you, we publicly proclaim God's love for your child and your faith in this love. It is a sign that God has really adopted your child and enables him/her to be truly called a child of God; by nature he/she is your child; by baptism he/she becomes a child of God. This is the beginning of their journey of Faith.

You, the parents, have taken the initiative in seeking baptism for the baby. In the ceremony you will be asked to make the sign of the cross on their forehead to show that you wish him/her to be dedicated to Christ's service. As the liturgy of the ceremony indicates, you are the child's first and best teachers; this is especially true in matters of faith – helping them learn to say their prayers, before they go to bed, and joining the Parish community at Mass, are the first steps on their own journey of faith. By asking for baptism

for your child; you are invited consider in advance, the commitment this involves – sharing your own journey of faith with your child, by becoming an active member of the Parish Community. The Godparents, you chose, also have an important share in this responsibility of bringing up your child as a Catholic. This is why we ask that they are practicing Catholics or committed Christians.

When you choose your child's Christian name we ask that it should really reflect your faith.

To help you with this we ask you to complete the online course and return the certificate with your application.

May Almighty God, His Son Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, and with Jesus' Mother Mary, assist you in this tremendous life-giving task.

Fr John Dickson SDB

Holy Family Church Addlestone,
KT15 1BP. 01932 848616

INFORMATION FOR BAPTISM

Please return to: addlestone@abdiocese.org.uk

Child's Christian name/s.....
Surname
Father's full name
Father's religion
Mother's full name
Maiden name Mother's religion
Date and place of marriage
Present address
.....
Post code Telephone
Email.....

Child's date of birth

Date and time agreed for Baptism

Godfather/s Religion
.....

Godmother/s
.....

While there is no fee for administering any of the sacraments, it is customary to make a donation to the priest. The amount is entirely up to you.

Appendix

CANON LAW ON BAPTISM:

Can. 849.

Baptism, the gateway to the sacraments, is necessary for salvation, either by actual reception or at least by desire. By it people are freed from sins, are born again as children of God and, made like to Christ by an indelible character, are incorporated into the Church.

Can. 851.

The celebration of baptism should be properly prepared. Accordingly: parents of a child who is to be baptised and those who are undertaking the office of sponsors; are to be suitably instructed on the meaning of the sacrament and the obligations attaching to it.

Can. 855.

Parents, sponsors and parish priests are to take care that a name is not given which is foreign to Christian sentiment.

Can. 868.

For an infant to be baptised lawfully it is required: that, there be a well-founded hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic religion. If such hope is truly lacking, the baptism is in accordance with the provisions of particular law, to be deferred and the parents advised of the reasons for this.

Can. 872.

In so far as possible a person being baptised is to be assigned a sponsor. In the case of an infant baptism, the role is together with the parents to present the child for baptism and to help it to live a Christian life befitting the baptised and faithfully to fulfil the duties inherent in baptism.

Can.873.

One sponsor, male or female, is sufficient: but there may be two, one of each sex.

Can. 874

To be admitted to undertake the office of sponsor, a person must be:

1. Appointed by the candidate for baptism, or by the parents or whoever stands in their place, or falling these by the parish priest or minister: to be appointed the person must be suitable for this role and have the intention of fulfilling it.
2. Be not less than sixteen years of age, unless a different age has been stipulated by the diocesan Bishop or unless the parish priest or minister considers that there is a just reason for an exception to be made
3. Be a catholic who has been confirmed, and has received the blessed Eucharist, and who lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken

Can. 874.

2. A baptised person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community may be admitted only in company with a catholic sponsor, and then simply as a witness to the baptism.