

Your duties as Parents

- ☒ teach your child to pray
- ☒ teach your child to lead a good Christian life
- ☒ come to Mass on Sundays
- ☒ teach your child the Catholic faith

God Parents Duties

Help the parents of the child

Be a Model/ example to the newly-baptised

Attend the Mass regularly with the Parents and the newly baptised

Support the parents in spiritual matters

Above all be a good Christian

Godparents “must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly-baptised – child or adult – on the road of Christian life.” (*Catechism* 1255) Only “a catholic who has been confirmed and has received the blessed Eucharist and who lives a life of faith befitting the role to be undertaken” (*Code* 874) (i.e. only a practising catholic) may be admitted as a godparent.

Preparation

Baptism preparation will take place on second and third Mondays of the month and will consist of two sessions of one hour to enable parents and godparents reach a fuller appreciation of the Faith that they are bringing their children into. The programme is directed by a preparation team.

Dates for baptism will normally be agreed during or after the first meeting with the priest and the preparation team.

Parents must have a faith which is solid if they are to pass it on to their children and this programme is aimed at assisting parents (and godparents) to reflect maturely on their faith. For infant baptism, there must be “a realistic hope that the child will be brought up in the catholic faith. (*Canon Law* 868)

A baptised member of a non-catholic community (e.g. Church of England or other Christian denomination) may not be a godparent at the baptism of a catholic but may stand as a witness as long as there is a catholic godparent.

“Parents are obliged to see that their infants are baptised within the first few weeks. As soon as possible after the birth, indeed even before it, they are to approach the parish priest to ask for the sacrament for their child, and to be themselves duly prepared for it.” (*Code 867*) Any parents expecting a child or who have recently had a new baby born should contact Fr John as soon as possible to arrange preparation.

The ceremony

Since Baptism is never a private affair but entry into the family of the Church, your child might well be baptised with other children. Baptisms will normally take place on Sundays and Saturdays.

White Garment

If you have a white shawl, this will be used as a part of the ceremonies.

Candle

A candle is also given as a sign of life and light (Resurrection). The Church will provide this.

Who can attend the Baptism ceremony

Everyone is welcome to the Baptism. If you have non-Catholic friends or family, they can just come for the Baptism.

Fees

There is no fee for the Baptism. If you can afford to do so,

you should make an offering. You can give this in an envelope to the priest at the time of the Baptism. If you cannot afford anything, it does not matter.

Some frequently asked questions about Baptism

How soon should I have my child baptised?

Children should be baptised within the first weeks after birth. Arrangements can even be made before the child is born. It is wrong to put off the Baptism simply in order to have a more elaborate celebration party afterwards. It is better to have the Baptism sooner and make the celebrations more simple and spiritual.

If I am not married in the Catholic Church. Can my child be baptised?

Yes. A child may be baptised so long as there is a well-founded hope that they will be brought up in the practice of the Catholic faith.

I do not live in the territory of the Cathedral. Can I have my child baptised at St George's?

Yes, if you regularly come to Mass at the Cathedral. It will usually be more appropriate and more convenient for you to arrange the Baptism at your local parish.

How many Godparents should we have?

The Church's Canon Law states that there should be one or two Godparents. A Godfather and a Godmother

Who can be Godparents?

Godparents must be Catholics over 16 years of age who themselves regularly come to Mass, and have been Confirmed and received the Blessed Eucharist.

What about non-Catholics?

Alongside a Catholic Godparent, a non-Catholic who is a baptised Christian may stand as a Christian witness.

Neither I nor my spouse is Catholic. Can our child(ren) be baptised Catholics?

One of the parents decides to become a Catholic themselves. For this parent/s to attend RCIA programme.

Preparation team:

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Download the application form: