



# HAVING YOUR CHILD BAPTISED AT CHRIST THE KING

## ***Why Does The Church Baptise Children?***

From the very beginning, the Church has always baptised children as well as adults. Our Lord said: "Unless a person is reborn in water and the Holy Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

This means that children should not be deprived of baptism. Children are precious to Jesus. He loves them dearly. He wants to save them by giving his blessings to them as they grow up in the spiritual family he began, the Church. We experience the Church and belong to the Church in our local parish. It is there that we gather to worship God and to learn together about the ways of God. So baptism takes place in our parish Church for it is there that the parish family gather.

## ***Is "Christening" The Same As "Baptism"?***

The word "baptism" means washing or cleansing in water. It comes from the Greek language. In the Church, baptism does not mean just ordinary washing or bathing with water. It has a sacred meaning. Baptism always means the washing with water that has the spiritual meaning given to it by Jesus Christ, the Son of God. That is why it is also called *CHRISTENING* but more correctly it is called the *Sacrament of BAPTISM*.



## ***What Is The Spiritual Meaning Of Baptism?***

When a child is baptised by the Church, Jesus baptises that child. He sends the Holy Spirit into the child. The Holy Spirit makes this child a child of God by cleansing from original sin and giving the child the new life of God. No man or woman can do that. Only God can make someone his son or daughter. God does this in the Sacrament of Baptism, and that is why we should ensure that our children are baptised.



## ***When Is The Right Time To Baptise My Child?***

Ordinarily, once a baby has been born and you have settled back at home, you should make contact with the parish to see about Baptism Preparation (*see below*) and arranging the date of the baptism of your child (*see below*).

## ***How Do I Prepare For The Baptism Of My Child?***

We hold the Baptism Preparation programme on the Third Sunday of the Month at 5:00 – 6:00pm in the Parish Centre.

We ask the mother, father, and the god-parents to attend this programme and arrange a baby-sitter for that hour.



## ***When Is The Sacrament Of Baptism Celebrated?***

Baptism is celebrated—in this parish—on the Fourth Sunday of the Month at 12:30pm, or during a weekday or Sunday Mass. This will be arranged with the Parish Priest. Sometimes there could be more than one child baptised in the same ceremony.

## ***How Do I Choose The God-Parents?***

To be a child's god-parent is an honour and a privilege. It means that the parents want this person to be an influence for good on their child; to be a good example; to be a guardian and helper "in the things of the Holy Spirit and of faith." For this reason, a god-parent should be a Catholic over 16 years of age, who has received the Holy Eucharist, and who lives a life of faith. A Christian person who is not Catholic may also be chosen, although they are what is known as a "Christian witness" and not a god-parent

*"Baptism unites us with Jesus Christ, incorporates us into his redemptive death on the Cross, thereby freeing us from the power of Original Sin and all personal sins, and causes us to rise with him to a life without end."*

**- pg 116, YouCat (Youth Catechism)**

*It is customary to make an offering—called a "stole fee"—after a baptism (as with a marriage or funeral). This is not retained by the Priest personally but goes towards the upkeep of all the priests of the Diocese.*

**Many people ask "what is an appropriate amount?"**

**There is no set amount.**

*This offering is never insisted upon as we do not "pay" for Sacraments. No one is ever refused the Sacrament because of a difficulty in making an offering.*



# STEPS TO TAKE

- ✚ Please read and fill in this information form and return to the Parish Office (*Contact information overleaf*).
- ✚ Book in for the Baptism Preparation Programme which is on the Third Sunday of the Month at 5-6pm in the Parish Centre.
- ✚ A priest will contact you
- ✚ If you live outside our Parish boundary and do not worship at Christ the King, you should have your child baptised in the parish where you live. Contact should be made with your local Parish Priest.
- ✚ If you were once a parishioner here and are coming back to Christ the King (e.g. for Christmas or holidays) and wish to have your child baptised here, you would need to talk to your Parish Priest in your present parish and a Priest here at Christ the King.
- ✚ Baptismal Candle—you may provide a baptismal candle for your child or, the Parish will provide one at the Baptism.



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## Contact Details

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