

Preparing for a baptism: notes for parents

Congratulations! By presenting your child for baptism, you are choosing to accept the responsibility of bringing up your child in the practice of your Catholic faith.

At the baptism you will promise to bring up your child to keep God's commandments as Christ has taught us, by loving God and loving other people. You, and the godparent(s) you will choose, will renew the vows of your own baptism, rejecting sin and professing your faith in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth, in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the virgin Mary, was crucified, died, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father; and in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

To help you understand the baptismal ceremony and the promises you will make, and to give you a chance to think about what practical steps you will take to live out your promises, you are asked to take part in the Baptism Preparation Group. The sessions are also an excellent way to meet other parents with babies, and you'll also receive a beautiful book that explains what baptism means; this book makes a lovely souvenir. People always say how useful they found the group, and how much they enjoyed it. The costs of these sessions (including the book) are paid for you by our parish. Ideally both parents should attend together, and partners who are not Catholics are made just as welcome as Catholic parents. Keep an close eye on the Swadlincote Sunday bulletin: when a course is coming up, you'll find the dates and information on how to book a place.

Godparents promise to help the parents to bring up the child in the Catholic faith. They have to take this responsibility seriously. Only someone who is a practising Catholic can be a godparent. A *witness* can be a Catholic who is not practising, or a Christian of another denomination. Witnesses stand with the godparents and join in the ceremonies. You don't need to have any witnesses, but your child must have at least one godparent.

Please do think carefully about the baptism. No parent should make promises they don't intend to fulfil, or profess a faith that they don't believe in their heart.

The declaration at the bottom of the form has to be signed by at least one parent and one godparent.

It is the custom to make a donation to the priest on the occasion of a baptism. There is no sum laid down, it's up to you how much you give, bearing in mind your own financial situation.

You can book the date for your child's baptism after the last session of the preparation group.

May your child's baptism be a day of joy for you and your family, and may God strengthen your love and give you the wisdom to be able to carry out the task he has entrusted to you.

Information for Baptism

Remember to bring this completed form with you to the baptism!

Please write clearly, as these details will be copied into your child's entry in the baptismal register.

Child's full name	
Date of birth	
For official use: DBap	
Address with postcode	
Telephone number	
Father's full name	
Mother's full name	
Mother's maiden name	
Full name(s) of Godparent(s)*	
Full name(s) of witness(es)*	

* (see note on the other side)

Declaration (see note on the other side): I declare that it is my intention to bring up this child as a practising Catholic.	
Signed (Father)	
Signed (Mother)	
Signed (Godparent)	
Signed (Godparent)	

<i>Your catechist will sign the form here for you, after the last session of the preparation group. I certify that this child's parents/father/mother have/has attended the sessions of the preparation group.</i>	
Signed (catechist)	Date

For official use: Register [] Index []
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