



Our Lady Help Of Christians



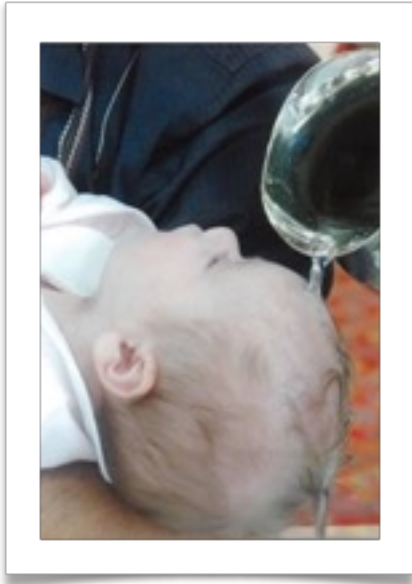
Sacrament of Baptism

Baptism

“One Lord, one faith, one baptism”

(Ephesians 4:5)

Having a baby makes a difference. As parents of a new baby things have changed... for you... your family...your friends...and your community.



The Baptism of your child brings a renewed energy and excitement into our Parish. When you bring your child to St Mary's, he/she will be welcomed into the community of faith. Your child will receive the benefits of being involved in and loved by Christ's family of the Church.

As parents, you prepare for the Baptism of your child. This can be an ideal opportunity to re-assess your own faith. All of us need to do this at times. We need the opportunity to look at our faith as an adult. Our Parish Baptismal Program seeks to assist parents like yourselves in the process and ensure that you feel ready and able to provide the support and encouragement necessary to raise a family in our faith community.



Please read the following Important Information including the step by step program.

The Personal Details Form must be completed.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

Baptism is a celebration where the Church Community initiates a new member who will join with it in faith, in prayer and who will share in its mission of spreading Jesus' way in our world.

Parents

The initiation into the sacramental life is, for the most part, the responsibility of the Parents. Parents who request Baptism for their child must be prepared to profess their faith and be willing to undertake the duty of bringing them up in the practice of the Christian faith. Parents are encouraged to guide their children in the spirit of faith and encourage them to follow Christ more closely. With the help of Godparents, they will assist their children to fulfil their baptismal promises faithfully and begin their life long journey in faith.

Parents and Godparents exercise their responsibilities by their example of Christian living, family prayer, and their active participation in the celebration of the sacraments and in the life of the Parish Community.



Godparents

The role of the Parent is more important than that of the Godparents. Nevertheless, as far as possible, each child to be baptised is to have a Godparent. One Godparent, male or



female, is sufficient, but there may be two. Together with the parents, Godparents present the child for baptism, profess the Church's faith and assist the parents in their responsibility to raise their child in the practice of the Christian faith.

Godparents are encouraged to prepare for baptism by reflecting on their own faith, their life of prayer and Christian witness and their ability to assist the parents of the child to be baptised. Whenever possible, they join the parents for instruction, faith sharing and common prayer in preparation for the baptism.



Heavenly Father

Be with my friends tomorrow – may they know joy.
Be with my family tomorrow – may they know love.
Be with me tomorrow – may I know peace.
Be with my child – may s/he know your light
As s/he begins his/her amazing journey of faith.
Lead him/her in the right path,
Keep him/her safe
And help us all to know you are with us,
Now and always.
Amen

Qualification of Godparents

When Godparents are people of firm faith, they can influence the child who is baptised to live the Christian life. The Church requires that Godparents be:

- Mature enough to carry out their responsibility (usually 16 years or older)
- Confirmed members of the Church. They must be Catholics who are fully initiated by the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- People who live lives consistent with the Christian faith and with the role to be undertaken.
- Not the mother or father of the child to be baptised.

At the request of the parents, a baptised and believing Christian, not belonging to the Catholic Church, may act as a Christian witness along with a Catholic Godparent.



We at Our Lady Help Of Christians, Chinchilla, look forward to accepting your child into our parish community as we prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism with you. Please accept our support as your family prepares for this important event that begins your child's lifelong journey in the Catholic faith.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

Step 1. Contact Us

You have contacted the Parish Office on 4662 7031 to arrange the details and obtain the registration form.

Step 2. Attend Preparation

It is necessary for both parents to attend the Baptism Preparation Meeting with the Priest. It is a good idea for Godparents to be present if possible. This meeting provides an opportunity to obtain information about the Sacrament of Baptism. This prepares your family for the Sacrament of Baptism and explains its significance in our Catholic Community.



Step 3. Welcoming Rite



At a Parish Mass prior to the celebration of Baptism, you and your child will be welcomed into our Parish community.

We will pray for your family as you prepare for the Baptism of your child. Please let the Priest know which Mass you will attend so he can make arrangements for this.

Step 4. The Baptism

Please ensure you bring your white garment and baptismal candle to the ceremony.



Step 5. The Ongoing Journey - A life within the Catholic Church begins. As a family and a Parish we endeavour to help your child grow in faith. We offer our support in the nurturing of your child as he or she grows and ultimately completes initiation in the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist.



Parents Responsibilities

- Provide a Baptismal Candle that needs to be brought along to the Baptism.
- Provide a White Baptismal Garment. This is not to be worn to the ceremony – it will be placed on the child as part of the Sacrament.
- Attend the Welcoming Rite at a Parish Mass prior to the day of baptism.
- Bring the registration form to the Priest as soon as possible.



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