

DECLARATION OF PARENTS

We (I) have asked to have our (my) child _____
baptised. In doing so, we are (I am) accepting the responsibility of training
him/her in the practice of the Faith. It will be our (my) duty to bring him/her
up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and
our neighbour. We (I) clearly understand what we are (I am) undertaking.

Signed: _____ Father

Signed: _____ Mother

Date: _____

*Please cut off the registration form and return it to the presbytery, keeping
the course description for your information.*

*"Let the little children come to me and do not turn them away, for it is to
such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. (Matthew 19:3-15)*

Programme of *Preparation for Baptism*



Parish of Wherever

Address and postcode

(telephone number; e-mail address, website address)

Parish Priest: Fr. Whoever

Catechetical Coordinator: if you have one

Dear Parents,

Christians believe that from the first moment of being each person is in relationship with God in Christ: *through him all things come to be, not one thing had its being but through him*. His life is life and light for all the world (cf John 1:3-5). From this starting point all life is gift, is encounter, discovery and response. Christ is *God-with-us*, the pattern for our loving, giving and serving. Baptism is the Church's welcome — God's people's welcome into a full sacramental share in God's life in Christ.

Living and sharing faith, then, becomes a job for life. Everyone is qualified for this task, because each one can say *I live in Christ and Christ lives in me*. Everyone is called: no-one is too young and no-one ever retires. When you ask for your child to be baptised, you undertake to be the first teachers of your child in the ways of the faith. You do not do this alone; the parish community as a whole come together to *pass on their faith* and the Church's tradition to our children. They do this in a special way through the parish catechists.

Bringing new life into the world is one of the greatest miracles of life. It brings with it many responsibilities. In a real way, the work is only just beginning. Over the years, you will have to care for this wonderful new life and help your baby to grow and become a loving and happy person, able to find joy and to bring joy to the world. The love you have for your baby is part of the love that God has. Just as you want your baby to find love, happiness and peace, so does God. In the Sacrament of Baptism, God shows this love. Through it, we celebrate the fact that your child is God's own child; your child becomes a member of the family of the Church.

Parents of children to be baptised are asked to profess their faith and to accept the responsibility of introducing the child to the Christian way of life. This presumes an active faith life and regular participation in Sunday Eucharist by at least one of the parents. We are ready to help anyone requesting the baptism of their child where this presumption is absent.

Parents choose a godparent (or perhaps godparents) whose role it is to sponsor the child for the Sacrament and to provide the parents with support in the rearing of the child in the faith. Godparents must be Catholics (baptised, confirmed and regular participants in the Eucharist) and living a good life as a Catholic. A baptised person of another Christian Church may serve as a *Christian witness* in lieu of the second godparent.

Baptisms take place whenever... To help you to clarify and deepen your reasons for bringing your child to Baptism, you will be invited to a course of preparation for all those whose children will be baptised.

Fr. Whoever/Catechetical Co-ordinator

Registration Form — Baptism Preparation Programme

Please print!

Name of Candidate _____

Date of birth of candidate _____

Full name of Father _____

Is Father Roman Catholic? Yes/No. If *no*, please state religion.

Full name of Mother _____

Is Mother Roman Catholic? Yes/No. If *no*, please state religion

Maiden name of Mother _____

Address _____

postcode _____ telephone number _____

Place of birth of candidate _____

Place of Marriage of parents _____

Proposed date of Baptism _____

Name(s) of Godparents. *Please note: At least one (and preferably two godparents) should be practising Catholics (i.e., baptised, confirmed and regularly participating in the Eucharist)*

Are Godparents Catholic? Yes/No. If *no*, please which Godparent (s) is not Catholic and state their religion.

Is the Catholic Godparent baptised? confirmed? and do they regularly participate in the Eucharist?

Which Mass do you normally attend? *Please tick the box or fill in the blank.*

Saturday [] pm Sunday [] am Sunday [] pm

I attend Mass at _____ Church.