

# Baptism Information Leaflet



## Congratulations

Congratulations firstly on the birth of your child and secondly on your decision to have your child Baptised as a member of our Faith Community. We, the Parish Baptism Team, are committed lay parishioners, religious sisters and the priests of the parish and we want to welcome you and your child among us. Baptism is often called the Gateway Sacrament because this is the first of all the Sacraments and the other six can only be received after you are baptised.

## Parents' Responsibilities

The Church baptises infants at the request of parents who wish their child to become a member of the Catholic Church. As a result, parents need to know what this means: Raising your child in the practice of the faith by showing them how to pray; bringing them to Mass regularly reading sacred scriptures to them and with them so they know who Jesus Christ is.

As a parish we want to support you in all of these challenges and make sure you don't feel alone. Resources are available from the Parish Baptism Team. We also invite you to attend our Family Mass which is celebrated at 10.30 am each Sunday. This Mass is family friendly and you will feel right at home here.

To arrange your child's Baptism please contact the Parish Office at least two months in advance.

## **Registration**

It is usual for the name of the child to be entered in the baptismal book in the same form as in the civil register. The Baptism team will confirm all such details with you before completing the entry in the parish's baptismal register.

## **Offerings to the Church**

It is customary to leave an offering at the time of the celebration of Baptism. An envelope will be given to you by a member of the Baptism Team. This offering supports the priests of the parish, contributes towards the running costs of St Aengus Church and also supports the sick & retired priests of the diocese.

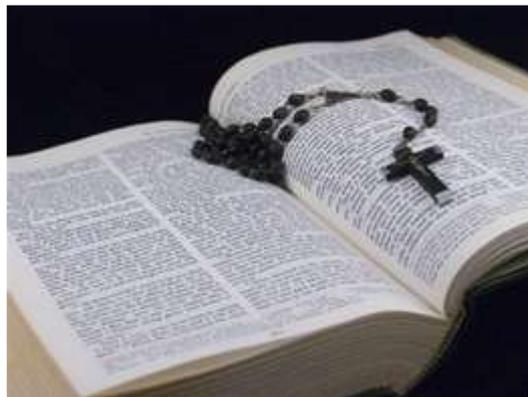
## **Godparents**

Godparents must be baptised and confirmed Catholics who are committed to sharing their faith with their godchild. They must normally be sixteen years old or more. While it is possible to have one godparent, there is usually one male and one female godparent.

## **The Celebration**

The Rite of Baptism contains a wonderful sequence of movement, symbols and gestures. It begins with welcoming your child into the Church, proceeds with the Word of God, moves to the font and concludes with a blessing.

### ***At the Ambo – Word of God***



The people turn to where the Word of God is proclaimed, to listen to the readings and to pray together. The Word of God is an ongoing source of nourishment for all of us on our faith journey.

## ***At the Font – Anointing and Baptism***



Before Baptism the priest prays to God to protect the children from evil and then anoints them. The baptismal water is blessed. Parents/guardians and godparents profess their faith in Christ. The children are then baptised.

## ***Accompanying Rites – Symbols and Actions***



A series of gestures follow. These are joyful ways of expressing what we mean by baptism. Each child is anointed on the head with the perfumed oil of Chrism. The children are clothed with a white garment and their baptismal candles are lit from the Easter candle. Finally, the priest prays over the mouth and ears of each child that they may come to hear and proclaim the Gospel.

## ***Final Blessing***

All join in praying the Our Father and this is followed by blessings for the parents/guardians and all present. We pray for and look forward to the future celebrations of Eucharist and Confirmation that will bring these children to full membership of the Church.

## **Days and Times for Baptism:**

First and Third Saturday of the month at 4pm

Please be sure to arrive 15 mins before the ceremony begins .we promise to start on time. The Ceremony lasts about 40-50 minutes even with six infants for Baptism.

***Make sure to have with you: your child's Baptismal candle  
The white shawl to wrap around your child during the ceremony***