

Infant Jesus Parish

Baptism Arrangements

The Sacrament of Infant Baptism is conducted in our parish on the first and third Sundays of each month at 12.45pm, after the morning Masses have concluded. To arrange the date for your child's baptism, please phone or email the parish. Contact details can be found below.

What does the parish require?

Parents who come to the parish for the baptism of their child are required to attend two meetings in the month prior to the date booked for the baptism. These meetings should take no more than one hour. Godparents are strongly encouraged to attend these meetings, and would find them helpful. If possible, please arrange a babysitter for your child, but we understand that some children, especially young babies, may need to be with you at the meeting.



Baptism Pack

When you have booked the date for the baptism, you will be given a baptism pack which includes a form which you will need to complete and return to us. The details from this form are entered into the Baptism Registers, so it is important to ensure that all spellings and details are correct. **Full** christian names are required, as well as the mother's maiden name. Completed forms should be returned to the Parish Office prior to the first parent meeting.

It is traditional, on the day of Baptism, to have a white christening robe. Covering the baby in the robe represents the "putting on" of new life in Christ. If you do not have a christening robe, the baby will need to be dressed in white. For the ceremony, you will need to bring a white candle. This may be perfectly plain or as ornamented as you wish.

It is customary to give the celebrating priest a monetary stipend for their services. This can be placed in an envelope and handed to the priest after the baptism.

Does a child whose parents are not married have the right to be baptised in the Catholic Church?

All that the Church requires is that the parents undertake to do their best to bring the child up as Catholic. Provided that there is a well-founded hope that the child will be brought up as Catholic, the child may be baptised.

Does their not being married affect their willingness or ability to give a child a catholic upbringing?

During the preparation for baptism the parents might be asked to consider this.



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Godparents: The role of the godparent is to assist in guiding the child in the Catholic faith. It is preferable that you choose a godfather and a godmother for your child, both of whom are Catholic. If this is not possible, at least **one must be Catholic** and the other should be a practicing Christian who has been christened in their own church.

Enclosed in the baptism pack is an information sheet with some further details about the role of the Godparent.

Also enclosed in this pack is a useful article on bringing your little ones to Mass. We hope that it will be of help to you.

Your child's baptism is an important event for the whole family. Taking time to prepare well and participating fully in the parent meetings will help to make the day a very special one.

God bless you all.

Infant Jesus Parish Office
9.30am - 12.30pm Mon – Thurs.
Ph: 08 9276 8500
Fax: 08 9375 3637
Email: ijparish@carmelite.com