



PARENTAL FORMATION *for the* **BAPTISM of INFANTS** **“WITH YOU ALWAYS”**

You and your family are very welcome here.

We are delighted that you are seeking Baptism for your child. Baptism is the first stage in passing on your faith to your child and this is one of the greatest gifts that you can give them. Baptism welcomes your child into the Christian family in the Roman Catholic Church.



Baptism is an important event for your child, your family and the whole parish community. Through Baptism we become members of the Church, the family of God. Our parish community welcomes each child and supports the family in their responsibility as the first and best teachers of their children in the ways of the faith and prayer.

Baptism Formation Sessions

We run three formation sessions for parents wishing to have their child(ren) baptised. These sessions are held after the **9.00 am Sunday Mass** on three consecutive Sundays. Please attend this Mass on those Sundays.

After Mass we will gather for about 45 mins to reflect on the sacrament of Baptism and what it means for you to have your child baptised. The sessions will help you to better understand your role as parents in bringing up your children in the faith. We will reflect on your own faith journey and the faith that you wish to pass on to your child.

We will provide refreshments for parents and children. **If your child has any allergies then please bring suitable refreshments for them.**

If you have older children who are to be baptised, we will prepare them separately so that they understand the sacrament of Baptism. Our Children's Liturgy team runs craft sessions after 9.00 am Sunday Mass and any siblings or older children are invited to join these which are well supervised.

During the first Sunday Mass there will be a short Rite of Welcome for parents and their children, a renewal of our Baptismal Promises and the presentation of a family bible. **Please bring this bible with you to each session.**

What Happens Next?

1. A priest will meet with you and arrange a date and time for your child's baptism. He will also talk you through the Baptism service and give you the opportunity to choose readings.
2. The Baptism Coordinator will confirm your course dates and, nearer the time, will send you a reminder and further details.
3. **Please do not arrange a family celebration until the date and time of the Baptism has been confirmed to you.**
4. **Godparents** – For the grace of Baptism to unfold, the parents' help is important. So too is the role of the *godfather and godmother*, who must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptised – child or adult on the road of Christian life...CCC2355

When choosing godparents, it is important to select people who can accompany and encourage your child on their faith journey. At least one of them must be a practising Catholic. Both godparents must be over 16 years of age. It is not necessary to have multiple godparents.

5. **Donations** – Baptism is a free gift from God. It is customary within our Catholic Tradition to make an offering to the priest who conducts your child's Baptism. **The suggested minimum offering per family is £50 (*there is no obligation here for those whose financial situation may be difficult*).** The priest will be grateful for any donation you can afford to give. Your donation really makes a difference to the Carmelite Community and the parish and helps to fund the cost of the bibles and other resources required to run the Baptism formation sessions.
6. **Arrangements For Your Child's Baptism** – Following your meeting with the priest if you have any further queries regarding the Baptism then please contact that priest.
7. **The Day of Your Child's Baptism**
- Arrive at church **approx 20 minutes** prior to the Baptism.
 - Please bring a white shawl for each child to be baptised.
 - Please bring your donation for the priest – ***EITHER mark the envelope with the child's name, date of Baptism and the name of the priest OR make your donation by contactless/card at the reception desk.***
 - We will provide a Baptismal candle for each child. You are welcome to bring special candles if you wish which the priest will bless.
8. **After the Baptism** – Baptism is only the beginning of your child's journey in faith. The lives of your family will be enriched by being active members of our parish community. We encourage you to attend Mass regularly and be a witness to other families in our parish. We will support your family on your faith journey.

We offer a choice of Sunday Masses. You will find the 9.00 am family Mass particularly welcoming for parents with young children. We have Children's Liturgy sessions during that Mass where the readings will be interpreted in an appropriate way for each age group. After Mass we gather for refreshments where craft activities are offered for the children.

For yourselves you might like to consider some voluntary activity in the parish where you can use your God given gifts. Perhaps be a welcomer to greet people as they come to Mass, or assist in the Children's Liturgy group or help with our sacramental preparation sessions. Whatever time you can offer to help our parish community will be much appreciated.

Please consider and pray about these things for they are important to our life of faith as well as for the future of our children who are the future of our faith community at St Joseph's. We too will remember you in our prayers.

**Please make sure you are on our Parish Register
so that we can send you further communications.**

Some Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q I am not a Catholic, do I need to attend the sessions?

A Yes. As parents you are taking on the joint responsibility of bringing up your child in the Catholic Faith. It is important that you attend to support your spouse or partner.

Q Can we change the dates of the course we selected?

A Yes. As long as there is availability on the course you wish to now attend. Please email the Coordinator to change your course dates.

Q Can we change the date/time of our Baptism?

A Yes. Please contact the priest who is celebrating the Baptism to make sure he is available. We will do everything possible to accommodate you.

Q Can we make a donation by debit/credit card?

A Yes. You can pay using Google/Apple Pay or Debit/Credit Card at the reception desk. This can be done when attending your course or by popping into the Parish Office ahead of the Baptism.

Q Can we hire the social club/parish hall for a family celebration?

A No. We regret that these facilities are currently unavailable.

Q How do I get a copy of my child's Baptism Certificate?

A Contact the Parish Office. Please provide details of the child, their date of birth, date of baptism, names of their parents and names of their godparents when making the request.

Our Baptism Formation Sessions are co-ordinated by
Christine Cornwell

*She will be happy to answer any questions you may have and
can assist with online registration if necessary.*

Contact her on **07770 665507** or by email at **teambaptismcoord@gmail.com**

To contact the Priest and/or Parish Office:

Telephone us on 01753 886581

Email us at office@stjosephs.org.uk

Visit our parish website at **www.stjosephs.org.uk**

Call in to see us at St Joseph's Priory (entrance via Bull Lane) SL9 8RY