

BAPTISM APPLICATION FORM

Child's full name:

Date of birth:

Father's full name:

Mother's full name:

Née (Name before marriage)

Father's Religion:

Mother's Religion:

GOD PARENTS: (full names)

Preferred dates / times for the Baptism

Other children: (full names)

**Address
(inc postcode):**

Telephone No:

Email:

How would you prefer to be addressed? Please circle:
Dr / Mr / Mrs / Mr & Mrs / Miss / Ms / The family
Other (Please specify)

Celebrants Use: *Date time Visit:*

Readings: 1

2

3

Office Use:

P.B. Parish Dir: Letter sent:

Visit: Celebrant: Date of Bap:

Baptism is a precious gift given by God through the Church. As parents you have the privilege of presenting your child to receive this gift, a gift that will last a lifetime and beyond. Baptism is the gift of new life, the eternal life of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ. This gift is a sacrament, an encounter with Christ himself, it is the moment he comes to us through the power of the Holy Spirit and acts within us. In this encounter we are transformed and come to share the life and mission of Christ. This equally true for adults who understand the meaning of the sacrament and chose it for themselves as it is for the youngest of children at the their baptism

*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations,
 baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
 (Matthew 28:19-20).*

The gift of Baptism is precious and by its very nature it calls for a response from the one who receives it; in the case of infant baptism God patiently waits for that child's personal response which will come as they grow in wisdom and understanding, guided by their parents, god parents, family and teachers to recognise and respond to the gift they have been given. Your child will depend on your help and the help of the entire Church to become aware of this gift they are to receive. It is your responsibility to ensure that your child is nurtured in the faith that you profess on their behalf, before God and the Church, during the baptismal ceremony. The time of preparation for your child's baptism is intended to help you understand the commitment you are taking on, and to deepen your appreciation of the gift you too have received in baptism

*'We dive into the inexhaustible source of life;
 so we can live a new life of communion with God, and with our brothers and sisters.
 We are called to live each day aspiring to the vocation that we receive in Him.'
 Pope Francis*

In one of his poems William Wordsworth remarked: "Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting." As Christians, we can say that our Baptism is our birth, but not a birth of "sleep and forgetting," rather it is a birth of awakening and remembering. Our Baptism is the beginning of a life long journey of awakening to the fullness of life offered us in Christ and a journey toward remembering who we really are: beloved sheep of the Good Shepherd, members of His flock which is the Church.

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (Galatians 3:27)

Your Child's Baptism

WHEN & WHERE

If you live in St Francis' parish or regularly attend Mass at St Francis Church or one of the Parish Mass Centres, you may have your child baptised in this parish. If you live in another parish, you should approach the Parish Priest of that parish. You can choose to have the Baptism during one of the Sunday Masses or at an individual ceremony

There is space on the application form for you to suggest some dates and times when you would like the baptism to take place; we will do our best to comply with your wishes but obviously this will depend on the parish diary and availability of the parish clergy.

Normal times for baptisms outside of the Sunday Masses:

SATURDAYS: 12noon; 2.00pm; 3.00pm or 4.00pm

SUNDAYS: 2.30pm or 3.30pm. (*Baptisms cannot take place on the first Sunday of the month as we have extra Masses at 12.30pm & 4.00pm*)

Other days/ times are also possible in consultation with parish clergy

PREPARATION

Parents are required to attend a preparation session prior to the baptism taking place; Godparents are warmly welcome to attend this time of reflection on the meaning of Baptism, the commitment you are undertaking and the practicalities of the ceremony. Preparation sessions take place on the **FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH** (except August and January) from **7.00pm-8.30pm** at St Francis

GOD PARENTS

Each child should have at least one Godparent (the norm is two) who should be a practicing Catholic, aged 16+. Obviously the parents of the child cannot act as godparents and ideally it should be someone other than the grandparents of the child. It is possible to have a 'non-Catholic witness' in addition to your godparent, provided that person is baptised Christian. If you have any queries concerning a potential godparent / witness please check this with one of the parish clergy or baptism co-ordinators before asking that person to be a Godparent.

WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

Please complete this form and return it to the Parish Office:

Baptism Coordinator, Grove House, 126 Week Street, Maidstone, ME14 1RH

You will then receive an invitation to the next Baptism Preparation Session.

If you have any queries please contact the Baptism Coordinators who are normally in the Parish Office on Mondays: 10.00am -12.00pm & 6.00-8.00pm

Telephone 01622 756217 or email: stfrancis-parish@yahoo.co.uk

Catholic Parish of St Francis Maidstone

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM FOR INFANTS



Information & Application Form

*As the first of the Church's seven sacraments, baptism gives us new birth in Christ,
it makes us sharers in the mystery of his death and resurrection,
grants the forgiveness of sin and brings us new freedom as God's children
and members of his Church.*

*Baptism is the sacrament on which our faith is founded
and we are living members of Christ and of his Church,
it is not just a simple rite or a formal act.*

Pope Francis