

**Baptism of Children in the  
Cathedral Parish of  
St Michael & St John  
Bathurst**

**Baptism  
Information**

Parish Office:

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Dear Parents

The Cathedral Parish of St. Michael & St. John, Bathurst, rejoices and gives thanks to God for the gift of new life that you have received. We give thanks that you have decided to have your child baptised in our Parish.

Baptism is a significant step in the life of a child. It is the beginning of the journey of faith with the God who gives life - a journey whereby we grow in our relationship with a loving God. Because Baptism is so important, our Parish does not wish parents to take this step lightly or without awareness of the commitment they are undertaking.

To support your child's new faith life, God calls on you to:

- pray for your child
- teach your child about God
- bring your child to worship God with you in Church
- encourage your child by your example.

Baptism is more than a private family celebration. It marks your child's entry into the Christian community, whose love and care will support you in your responsibility for bringing your child up as a mature Christian.

For this reason we seek to help you prepare for the baptism of your child at an **Information Session about Baptism.**

At this Session:

- We discuss the significance and theology of Baptism in our tradition, the role of Christian parents, the important role of Sponsors (Godparents), and the part that the Catholic community plays in the faith formation of your child.
- You complete the Request Form, by which you formally ask to have your child baptised.
- We discuss the practicalities of the Baptism ceremony.

We encourage both parents to attend if at all possible. We realise that there are parents who are of different faith traditions; we support you as you help your child and we encourage you to attend with your partner. Sponsors (Godparents) are welcome and indeed encouraged to attend the Baptism information session.

The Information Sessions are held twice a month on **Wednesday night at 7.30pm** in the Cathedral Parish Centre in Keppel Street. The session takes about 1 hour.

You are able to book in for one of the **Information Sessions** at the **Presbytery** (Ph: 6331 3066 **Monday to Friday 9.00am - 4.30pm**) or by emailing the office on [office.cathedral@cdob.org.au](mailto:office.cathedral@cdob.org.au)

Some information that you will need to have to complete the **Baptism Request Form** is:

**SPONSORS/(GODPARENTS) DETAILS**

(Maximum of 4, one of whom must be a confirmed Catholic)

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Religion \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Religion \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Religion \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_ Religion \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

**GRANDPARENTS DETAILS:**

MATERNAL GRANDMOTHER:

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

MATERNAL GRANDFATHER:

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

PATERNAL GRANDMOTHER:

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Maiden Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

PATERNAL GRANDFATHER:

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

## Booking the Baptism:

Before a booking can be made for your child's Baptism, there are a number of steps that need to be taken:

1. Complete the **Baptism Preparation Program**.
2. Complete the **Request for Baptism Form**.
3. Get the important **documents** to attach to the Request Form:
  - A. Copy of the child's Birth Certificate.
  - B. Copy of Catholic parent(s) Baptism Certificate(s).
  - C. Copy of Catholic Sponsors (Godparents) Confirmation details.

Bookings cannot be confirmed and entered into the Parish diary until all paperwork has been received and monies paid.

**Please note: Both parents must sign the Request Form.**

***If both parents are unable to attend the Preparation Program, the absent parent must present at the Parish Office to sign the Baptism Request Form. Baptism Request Forms cannot be taken home.***

## Sponsors (God Parents):

Sponsors (Godparents) have a very important role in the faith life of their Godchild. They assist the parents in bringing the child up as a mature Christian.

One Sponsor (Godparent) must be over the age of 16 and a Confirmed Catholic - that is, having received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation. (*Canon 874 no 2-Code of Canon Law*).

Up to three other Sponsors (Godparents) or Christian Witnesses may also be chosen.

## **When held:**

Baptisms are held every **Sunday at 11.30am.**

On the first weekend of the month Baptisms are held at the Assumption Church.

On the other weekends of the month Baptisms are held in the Cathedral.

Baptisms can also be organised at St Joseph's Chapel Perthville, St Dymphna's Burruga, St Patrick's Rockley and St Mary MacKillop's Wattle Flat for families with connections to those faith communities. Usually Baptisms at these venues will be celebrated during the Mass.

## **Cost:**

A customary donation of **\$60** is made to the Church at the time of booking the Baptism, to enable the Parish to provide and maintain the church building, and to cover the administration costs. This donation can be made at the Parish Office, by EFTPOS over the phone on 6331 3066, or in cash at the Information Session.

If for any reason the Baptism is cancelled the money will be refunded.

## **Baptism Requests from Parents not Living in the Parish**

People residing in other Parishes are welcome to have their children baptised in our Parish. If you wish to do so you must:

- obtain a letter of permission from your Parish Priest to indicate that he is aware that the Baptism is being celebrated in the Cathedral Parish;
- attend a Baptism Preparation in your home Parish if you are not able to attend the Information Session in Bathurst.

## **Punctuality:**

Please be on time for the Baptism as lateness can inconvenience other families celebrating their child's Baptism on the day