



# PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART

## BAPTISM APPLICATION FORM 2023/2024

Baptism is the first of the seven Sacraments of the Church. It is described in the Catechism of the Catholic Church as “*the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as children of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission*”. What an extraordinary GIFT of God we receive in Baptism! It is also clear in these words that it can never be a private commitment but always a PUBLIC commitment to following Jesus Christ, as a member of the Church.

For this reason, it is **essential** that parents and godparents are concerned to ensure baptised children are brought up in the *practice of their faith*. This means participating in the life of the parish community, especially in attending Sunday Mass. This is the moment in the week where we gather to celebrate that Christ is Alive and Risen from the dead. Baptism is a sharing in the life of the Risen Lord.

There are designated dates for: [1] the **Preparation Class (important both parents attend)**; [2] the **Baptism Service**; [3] the **Welcome by the Parish Community** - presentation of Baptism Certificate at the Sunday Mass you normally attend. *Please note that we celebrate Communal Baptism Services, normally involving more than one child / family.*

On the attached form please indicate your 3 dates. They do not need to be in the same month but must be in order i.e. Preparation - Baptism - Welcome.

### **IMPORTANT NOTES - PLEASE READ BEFORE COMPLETING THE BAPTISM FORM:**

**LIVING WITHIN THE CHURCH BOUNDARY:** Please check that you are living within the Parish boundaries before completing/Submitting this form. If in doubt you can call the office. If you want to baptise your child within the parish but live within another parish you will need to seek **written** permission of your parish priest.

**CHURCH ATTENDANCE:** We have an expectation that if a child is to be baptised that their parents are regularly attending Church. This is because you are committing to bringing your child up in the Catholic faith. If you are new to the parish, please introduce yourself to the Priest.

**PARENTS:** At least one parent must be a **baptised Catholic**. If neither is catholic then your child cannot be baptised as such until at least one parent has become a Catholic by attending the Right of Christian Initiation (RCIA) programme.

**AGE OF CHILD:** If your child is aged over 7 years you will need to contact the parish to discuss the baptism.

**GODPARENTS:** The **recommended number** of Godparents is 1 Godmother + 1 Godfather. **Godparents** must be **Confirmed practising Catholic adults (please mark ‘confirmed practising’ against the name(s) of qualified Godparents)**. However, one of them may be an adult Christian of another denomination (“Christian Witness”).

There is no charge for celebrating Baptism. However, a suggested **donation** of £50 can be made to the priest. Guests are also invited, if they wish, to contribute towards the upkeep of the church via a donation basket left at the back of the church.

We are delighted to welcome new members of the Church through this wonderful Sacrament and look forward to getting to know you and your children as you become involved more and more in the life of the parish.

God bless you, *Canon Colin Wolczak*, Parish Priest

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*PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS & RETURN FORM TO PARISH OFFICE*

<b>Full name of Child:</b>	<b>Date of birth:</b>	<b>Gender:</b>
<b>Father's name:</b>	<b>Baptised Catholic: Y/N</b> <b>If not state other religion:</b>	
<b>Mother's name:</b> <b>Nee:</b>	<b>Baptised Catholic: Y/N</b> <b>If not state other religion:</b>	
<b>Godparent 1:</b>	<b>Godparent 2:</b>	
<b>Godparent 3:</b>	<b>Godparent 4:</b>	
<p><b>Godparents must be Confirmed practising Catholic adults. However one of them may be an adult Christian of another denomination ("Christian Witness"). Please confirm in brackets by their name, which are the Confirmed practicing Catholic/s. The other may be Christians of another denomination:</b></p>		
<b>Do you live within the Parish Boundaries: Y/N</b>	<b>If no, where do you worship:</b>	
<b>Is the Sacred Heart your place of worship: Y/N</b>	<b>Do you have written permission from your priest for your child to be baptised here: Y/N</b> <b>(Please send into the office)</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	<b>Phone number:</b>	
<b>Email address:</b>	<b>Which Mass do you normally attend (please circle):</b> <b>Saturday 6pm Vigil, Sunday 9.30am/11.30am</b>	

**Please select one of each Preparation Class, Baptism Service and Welcome date.**

	<b>PREPARATION CLASS</b>  Saturday 10-11am in Parish House or Parish Rooms	<b>BAPTISM SERVICE</b>  1pm on Sunday	<b>WELCOME BY THE PARISH COMMUNITY (&amp; collect certificate)</b>  Please circle to attend at Saturday 6pm Sunday 9.30am or 11.30am
<b>SEPTEMBER 2023</b>	9 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>
<b>OCTOBER 2023</b>		22 <sup>nd</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>
<b>NOVEMBER 2023</b>	4 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>JANUARY 2024</b>	13 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>
<b>FEBRUARY 2024</b>		11 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>
<b>MARCH 2024</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>
<b>MAY 2024</b>	4 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>JUNE 2024</b>		9 <sup>th</sup>	16 <sup>th</sup>
<b>JULY 2024</b>	6 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>