

The Parish of

ST PETER CHANEL

In transparish with St Joseph's, Fairfield

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

- Assures you that we care deeply about your child, and wish to support you in carrying out your pledge as a parent, to nourish your own and your child's faith.

The Parish

- Ideally, Baptism should take place on a Sunday; even during Sunday Mass – the day on which the Church celebrates the Paschal Mystery. It should be conferred in a communal celebration for all the recently born children, and in the presence of the faithful, or at least some relatives, friends and neighbours, who are all to take part in the Rite.

A Right to the Love and Help of the Parish Community

- The faith in which children are baptised into, is not the private possession of the individual family, but is the common treasure of the whole Church of Christ.
- When the Community is present at the Baptism, it becomes immediately obvious why it should be so. There is a spirit expressed there, that is not present at a "private" ceremony, and is felt by everyone.

Parents

- It is the role of the mother and father, accompanied by the God-parents, to present the child to the Church for Baptism.
- Before the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism, it is of great importance that the parents should prepare to take part in the Rite, with understanding.
- During the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism, both the mother and father have special roles to play.
- If one of the parents cannot make the Profession of Faith (e.g.: has no religious belief), it is required that he/she at least give permission for the child to be instructed in the Faith.

- After Baptism, it is the responsibility of the parents, helped by the Parish Community, to enable the child to know God, to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, and to participate in the Holy Eucharist.

God Parents

- Godparents should be present at the Baptism, to be added spiritually to the immediate family, and to represent the Church Community.
- As the occasion offers, the Godparents shall be ready to help the parents bring up the child to profess the faith, and to show this by living it.

God Parents are required:

- to be mature enough to undertake this responsibility (over 16 years),
- to be a Catholic who has received the three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist).

Christian Witnesses

- A baptised and believing Christian from another faith tradition may act as a Christian witness, along with a Catholic Godparent.

For further information

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