

Planning your child's Baptism at

St Paul Apostle Parish



Welcome to St Paul Apostle Parish, for the celebration of this first sacrament with your child. We hope you will find support, friendship and faith with us over the coming years.

Baptism is a family affair. In Baptism, children receive the first Sacrament of their initiation into the Catholic Community. There are three steps in the process of preparing for and celebrating Baptism at St Paul Apostle Parish which you need to take into account in planning the date. Together with Eucharist and Confirmation these sacraments initiate us into the life of the Christian Community.

Through the Sacrament of Baptism, your child is welcomed into the Catholic Faith and you make a promise to do all in you can to make that faith a lived reality in your home and in the community. Faith is a gift of God that is encouraged by example and instruction; it is both lived and learnt or to put it another way it is caught!

Step 1: Baptism Preparation

Parents are required to attend a preparation session which takes place on the third **Sunday of the month at 3.45pm in the Parish Office**. Godparents are also encouraged to attend if possible. You will have the opportunity to:

- Meet other parents presenting their children for Baptism
- Share on the changes in family life
- Share on your hopes and dreams for your child
- Discover what will happen at Baptism
- Understand a little more about our Parish Family and the opportunities available to you if you wish to be involved.
- Please come to the session knowing your views are valued
- At this session you will be given a stole to decorate for the Baptism Day

Godparents:

In order to be a Godparent, a person must be mature enough:

- To accept responsibility
- To have a commitment to living in the Catholic tradition
- At least one Godparent must be a **Confirmed Catholic**.
- Others should be baptised Christians.
- Only two Godparents are recorded in the Baptism Register.
- Godparents are chosen to assist the Parents and they represent the community of faith in their concern that the child is raised in the ways of faith.
- Parent should choose Godparents whose own way of life expresses Christian commitment and is a source of inspiration to them and their children.

Step 2: Rite of Welcome

- On the **fourth Sunday** of the month before the month of the Baptism, the parents and their child are presented to the Community at one of the weekend Masses.
- This is the rite of welcome and blessing which is the first part of the Baptism ceremony. Please indicate which Mass you can attend.
- Please come 10 minutes before Mass and say hello to the priest who will be celebrating Mass.
- Please sit near the front of the Church so you do not have too far to walk when you are called up.

Step 3: Celebration of Baptism

- Baptisms are usually celebrated on the first and second Sunday of the month at 12.30pm
- Very occasionally we allow a Baptism at a Mass for families who are regular attenders at a particular Mass.
- Please complete the details on the Baptism Registration Form.
- It is customary for families to make a donation of \$50-100 as you can afford. This is for the Priest who leads the Baptism service. It is suggested that when you return your forms to the Office the donation is placed in an envelope with the child's name clearly written on the outside.
- If this is an issue, please speak to a member of the Parish Team.

Baptism Calendar 2019

Baptisms: Feb 3rd; Feb 10th; March 3rd; March 10th; April 7th; April 14th; May 5th; May 12th; June 2nd; June 9th; July 1st; July 7th; July 14th; August 4th; August 11th; Sept 1st; Sept 8th; October 6th; October 13th; Nov 3rd; Nov 10th; Dec 8th; Dec 15th

Preparation: Jan 20th; Feb 17th; March 17th; April 14th (because 21st is Easter Sunday); May 19th; June 16th; July 21st; August 18th; Sept 15th; Oct 20th; Nov 17th; Dec 22nd;

Baptism Calendar 2020

Baptisms: Jan 5th, Jan 12th, Feb 2nd; Feb 9th; March 1st; March 8th; April 5th, May 3rd; May 10th; June 7th, June 14th; July 5th; July 12th; July 14th; August 2nd; August 9th; Sept 6th; Sept 13th; October 4th; October 11th; Nov 1st; Nov 8th; Dec 6th; Dec 13th

Preparation: Jan 19th; Feb 16th; March 15th; April 19th; May 19th; June 21st; July 19th; August 16th; Sept 20th; Oct 18th; Nov 15th; Dec 20th;

Parish Information:

Priests:	Fr Kevin Dance CP Fr Pastor Mumburi CP Fr Brian Gleeson CP
Pastoral Associates:	Sr Joan Smith CP Sr Brigid Murphy CP
Parish Secretary:	Didi Karkas
Parish Bursar:	Gillian Velupillay

Baptism Team

Beryl Barnfield and Carol Tinney

Mass Times:

Sat 6pm Sundays 9am; 11am & 6pm

Parish Prayer: God, Creator and Life-giver we thank you for the gift of one another in our Parish of St Paul Apostle. Bless us and our families with the power of your Spirit. Inspired and motivated by St Paul's courage and commitment to the person of Christ, may we continue to be open to change and challenge! Make us passionate and courageous in our mission of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.