

What to do if you would like your child to be baptised...

- Step 1:** contact Father Andrew to arrange an initial meeting
- Step 2:** reflect on your own faith and the responsibility Baptism places on parents
- Step 3:** attend an informal Baptism preparation session in Abingdon or locally
- Step 4:** consider and approach godparents
- Step 5:** finalise arrangements for the service itself

Copies of the wording of the Baptism service can be borrowed if you wish to understand what happens in the service itself.

...or what to do if you are an adult seeking Baptism:

If you are an adult who seeks Baptism, or an adult who is already baptised in another Christian denomination, and desire full communion with the Catholic Church, please speak to Fr Andrew.

Important Contacts

Priest (The Revd Mgr Andrew Burnham)

aburnham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

01235 835038

Parish Administrator (Maria Brown)

hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

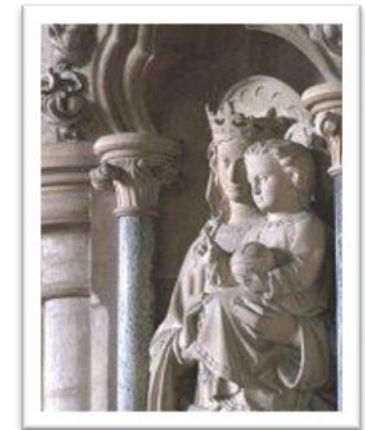
For the Baptism Preparation session:

Abingdon Parish Office 01235 520375

abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

St Mary's, East Hendred
St Patrick's, East Ilsley

HOLY BAPTISM



A Guide to Celebrating the
Sacrament of Baptism

A welcome into the Church

Why Baptism?

As Catholics, we believe that in Baptism we are welcomed as children of God. This is the first sacrament and is the first step on our journey of faith. Through that journey we believe that we can know God's love more fully, and, working for God's Kingdom, help bring about a better world for our children and for those around us.

Newborn children are not able to make a profession of faith themselves and so parents and godparents bring them to Baptism and guide them in taking that first step in their personal journey of faith.

Being baptised provides children with the foundation on which then to build their faith as they mature through life. It also allows them to fully enter into the other sacraments such as Holy Communion, Confirmation and Marriage.

We will....

To help parents explore Baptism fully, we will provide you the support you need, through our Priest, Fr Andrew, and through contact with other members of the congregation. Perhaps you might want to discuss Baptism with one of the families in our community who have recently had a child baptised. If your own journey of faith has stalled we extend a warm welcome and will help you reflect on your own faith and welcome you and your child or children to the Church.

A responsibility as Parents...

Baptism welcomes a child into the Church, and in doing so places a responsibility on parents.

It is important that you reflect on your own faith. It is not necessary for both parents to be Catholic but parents need to be committed to bringing up their children within the Catholic Church.

Godparents form an important layer of support for parents and children alike. The choice of godparents is important and you should give this very careful consideration. At least one godparent should be Catholic, and all godparents should be committed to making a positive contribution to your child's journey in faith.

We welcome all families and seek to support you in living the commitment to your child or children. In particular, we want to support you in your attendance at Sunday Mass each week.

Children are always welcome and we offer Children's Liturgy during Mass in school term-time and programmes of preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation in alternate years. We have our own Catholic Primary School, St Amand's, locally.

The sacrament of Baptism can be celebrated as part of the normal Sunday Mass or, more usually, as a stand-alone service, at 12.30pm on Sundays.

Any questions?

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact those listed on the back of this leaflet.

Sunday Mass: St Mary's 9.30am
St Patrick's at 11.15am.

Answers to some other FAQs include:

- Your child's name should include at least one Saint's name (there are many so this is not intended to be unduly limiting!)
- You should select two godparents (usually a godfather and a godmother) who are practising Catholics. Extra godparents are permitted.
- A godparent may be represented by a proxy. Sometimes, for example, a close relative or friend is resident in another country at the time of the Baptism or absent through illness.
- The group Baptism session lasts for about ninety minutes and is usually in Abingdon. (e-mail address overleaf).
- There is no age limit on Baptism. If you are an adult seeking Baptism or desiring full communion with the Catholic Church) please speak to Fr Andrew.
- You usually need to be a resident of, or regular worshipper in, our parish.
- There is no fee for Baptism but it is usual to make a gift to support the priest. £50 is suggested.