



Parish of Christ the King, Bedford

Northampton Diocese

Baptism Enquiry Form

Parish of Christ the King



Harrowden Road, Bedford

Telephone: 01234 342641

Please complete the form below and email it to parish.christthekingbedford@northamptondiocese.org or hand it to the Parish Priest.

PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS

Child's full name: _____

Male: Female:

Date of birth: DD / MM / YYYY

Parent's Details: One parent must be a Practicing Catholic

Mother's name: _____

Religion: _____

Father's name: _____

Religion: _____

Home address (including postcode):

Post Code: _____

Telephone number: _____

E-mail address: _____

Signature of one parent: _____

Date: _____

Protecting your privacy - Your personal details will be stored and used by the Parish for the purposes of conducting and administering the Sacrament of Baptism. By signing above, you acknowledge that Church Law requires some of your personal data to be entered in Registers and stored permanently.

Details of how we process your data, and your rights, are on the full Privacy Notice and can be found at:

<https://northamptondiocese.org/privacy-and-cookies/>

I/We also give consent to our child's name being published in the parish newsletter/website

I/We also give consent for the parish to send emails regarding parish events and other items of interest

(Place an X in a box to opt out)

THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Your Child's Baptism

As parents, family and friends, you are rightly rejoicing this day in the birth of your child. God has blessed you with the precious gift of a child of your own. Now you want nothing short of the best for him/her. In presenting your child for baptism, you are formally requesting his/her entry into God's family. The local Christian community or parish is God's family as far as each of us is concerned.

It is fitting then that the Baptism of your child should take place in your own parish church close to where you live, with as many people as possible present to welcome this new Christian.

The Gift of New Life

Through the Sacrament of Baptism your child will become a member of the Church, the body of Christ. He/she will share in God's life. Baptism marks the beginning of this new life. It is the first step. The road ahead is long and winding. Only one thing is certain – we cannot make it on our own. We need God's help and the support and encouragement of others.

Choosing a Sponsor or Godparent

It is an ancient custom in the Church that children have a sponsor or godparent.

Their purpose is twofold:

- a) To assist the parents in discharging their duties as Christian parents.
- b) To be a model of Christian living to the child.

Some people may not be suitable as a sponsor or godparent.

The sponsor or godparent chosen should be over 16 years old; should be a Roman Catholic and have received the three sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation & Eucharist); above all they should have the maturity, capability and intention of carrying out the responsibility of being a sponsor or godparent.

It is hoped that the same person will again be sponsor to the child when he/she comes to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Baptism Helps Us Combat Sin

We want to safeguard and protect children from the evil influences of our world – violence, hatred and discord of every kind. These are the consequences of sin, both original and personal. As children must live in this imperfect world it is our duty to do all we can to help them resist the forces of evil and sin. We do this by introducing them into a believing community that has already conquered sin and evil. We baptise the child into our own personal faith and that of the local community. At the same time, we take the opportunity to renew our own baptismal promises.

A Sacrament of Faith

Like all of the sacraments, Baptism is a Sacrament of faith. Faith is not something theoretical or magical. Neither is it something automatic that is poured into the child's soul through the waters of Baptism. Rather it is our day-to-day response to God's call as we journey through life. It is something concrete and practical. We see it being manifested daily in the lives of ordinary people. All of us know people of deep faith – our parents, our grandparents, our sponsors, our teachers, our priests. We are grateful for the formative influence they have had on us. We cherish the values they gave us. They gave us a start in life. Let us do likewise for our children.

Training Our Children in The Ways of Faith

Children as we know are particularly adept at imitating their parents in a wide variety of ways. They talk like them and imitate their mannerisms. The same holds true when it comes to the ways of faith. If we are not people of faith, the seed of faith sown in baptism will come to nothing. For this reason, the Church is reluctant to sow this seed if there is little likelihood of its growing into a real faith. In fact, it has been the constant policy of the Church down through the ages to insist that there be a 'well-founded hope' that the child be brought up in the ways of faith.

Our Own Faith Commitment

In the case of infant baptism, it is the parents, the sponsors and indeed the whole Christian community that provide the bedrock of faith. In most instances it is a faith which is far from perfect; it is a struggling and stammering faith in constant need of nourishing and renewal. Our own personal faith is nourished and sustained in and through our contact with people of faith. We make that vital contact Sunday after Sunday when we come together in worship around the Lord's Table. It is there that we encounter the signs of faith. We come not just to be nourished ourselves but to nourish one another as well. By absenting ourselves regularly from Sunday Mass we are cutting ourselves off from the signs of faith and weakening the whole faith-fabric of the believing community. We are depriving ourselves of that lifeline of faith which all of us so badly need. That is why the Church considers regular participation at Sunday Mass so important when you come to present your child for Baptism. At the very least it is a concrete and visible sign of your ongoing contact with the signs of faith.

Our faith is further sustained and nourished in and through our personal and family prayers. During the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism you will be reminded that 'as parents you will be the first teachers of your child in the ways of faith. You must also be the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what you say and do. Your child will be a person of faith only if he/she grows up in a household of faith. Faith cannot stand still. It must either grow and mature or wither and fade.

If you cut yourself off from the very signs of faith, it is very doubtful if you can be a convincing sign of faith to your child. You may indeed bring your child to the waters of Baptism, but what will it profit him/her if you abandon him/her there. You must be prepared to walk with your child, remembering that 'Christians are made, not born.' The making of a Christian is a life-long process. As a parent you are the one charged with initiating this process.

