



### **BAPTISM: Welcome to the Catholic Family**

The Sacrament of Baptism is the first of the three Sacraments of Initiation, the other two being the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the Sacrament of Confirmation. The person— infant, child or adult, once baptised, becomes a member of the Church. The bond of Baptism binds us to God forever and once baptised, the bond is unbreakable and cannot be repeated.

### **BOOKING AND THE BAPTISM FORM**

Our Parish offers Baptism on **Sundays by appointment** at 11am (Sefton) and 10am (Villawood). Should you need a specific date, this must be confirmed with the priest. A booking is then made into our Baptism Book and you will be given a Baptism Form to complete. Please ensure you write down your child's **FULL** name on this form exactly as it appears on the birth certificate.

### **BAPTISM PREPARATION MEETING**

A Preparation Meeting is held on the **first Wednesday night** of each month at 7.30pm for parents to attend prior to their baptism date to be held in the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Sefton church. Please book in your interest with the Office. (You may be excused from attending this meeting if you have had a previous baptism here.)



**BAPTISMAL PROMISES** The family will gather around the baptismal font - a large bowl holding the waters of baptism. Usually the mother holds the child. The celebrant asks the parents what they want for the child. They reply, 'Baptism.' Then they make the baptismal promises on behalf of their child. These promises are based on the Apostles Creed.



### **SIGN OF THE CROSS**

The tracing of a cross on the forehead of the person being baptised is an invisible "marking" that says "they belong to Jesus". The priest or deacon will trace the cross on the forehead of the baby and invite the parents and godparents to do the same.

**BAPTISM WITH WATER** The priest pours water over the head of your baby and says **"I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."**

The water is a sign of cleansing and symbolically washes the person being baptised of all sin. It is also a sign of life. Without water nothing can grow.



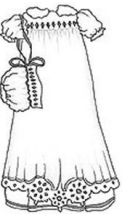
It is a sign of the new spiritual life into which the baptised person is entering.



**ANOINTING** The celebrant anoints your baby with oil on the forehead and on the chest. He anoints the baby with the Oil of Baptism (Catechumens) and with the Oil of Chrism. The Oil of Baptism is olive oil. It relates to the days when athletes used to rub oil into their bodies before events to strengthen them and make their skin more supple. It symbolises strengthening for the struggles of life ahead. The Oil of Chrism is a combination of olive oil and balsam. It symbolises the sealing with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.



**WHITE GARMENT** Your child is given a white garment as a sign of being clothed in Christ. Your family might have a Christening gown that you want to use or a shawl, a white scapular or a white bib. The white garment is a symbol of purity and innocence.



**CANDLE** As a sign of the new life a candle will be lit, usually from the Easter Candle which symbolises the light of Christ. Usually the father of the child or a godparent will stand by the child and hold this candle.

We provide small Baptismal Candles (H. 14cm) for sale in the Parish Office, as pictured, at a cost of \$15.00 each.

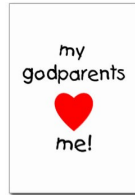


## BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATE

At the End of the Ceremony you will be given a Baptismal Certificate. You will need to keep this in a safe place as it will be required when you enrol your child in a catholic school or before he or she receives the sacraments of Eucharist, Confirmation and for Marriage.



**GODPARENTS** It is usual to have two Godparents. **One of them must be a baptised Catholic** and both should be over the age of 16 years. Their role is to take over or assist in the faith development of the child being baptised in the event that his/her parents is unable to or if the child is neglected. This fulfils the baptismal promise of being raised in the Catholic faith.



## WHY ARE THERE SEVERAL BABIES BAPTISED AT THE ONE CEREMONY?

This is to symbolise that each baby is joining the universal Church. The gathered community is a symbol of the Church.

**DONATION** There are no fees for sacraments which are gifts from God given through the Church. They are not sold or purchased; however, it is customary that an offering be made to the Church. This does not go to the priest but is used to support and meet the costs involved in your baptism.



**PUNCTUALITY** This is of the utmost importance as there could be up to four families booked on that day. Please ensure you and your guests arrive 15 minutes prior to the ceremony commencing so the baptism/s will start on time.

**PHOTOGRAPHY** Professional photographers and video cameras are permitted in the church. In general their movement and equipment should not distract the priest or the guests.



**PARKING** Parking is a matter of convenience, safety and easy access for your family and guests. Please advise your guests that there is street parking and a public carpark available for their use beside the church.

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### For booking in your Baptism:

Please contact the Parish Office

Tel: 02 9644 4026

Email: [office@ihmsefton.org.au](mailto:office@ihmsefton.org.au)

Office Hours: Tues – Fri 10am-3pm



# Baptism Information



**Immaculate Heart of Mary,  
Sefton  
Sacred Heart, Willawood  
Catholic Church**

Parish Office: 6 Kerrinea Road  
Sefton NSW 2162  
Tel: 02 9644 4026 Fax: 02 9743 7407  
Email: [office@ihmsefton.org.au](mailto:office@ihmsefton.org.au)