

# Your Child's Baptism

## Why Baptism?

You have approached the Parish and asked for your child to be Baptised - but why? It is important that we have an understanding in the importance of Baptism and what it is that you, as parents, are asking and the responsibility that comes with it. Here are a list of suggested reasons that people may give as to why they wish to have their child Baptised - which of these do you agree with? Are there other reasons not mentioned that you would give?

It feels odd not to have a child baptised

My parents want it

I want my child to become a disciple of Jesus Christ

I want my child to get into a Catholic School

So my child can have Godparents

Being part of the Church is important to me

It's a good family gathering

It brings Good Luck

To be cleansed from Original Sin

Baptised people are better people

So my child can have an official name

To give my child Godparents

I wish to pass my Faith onto my child

Another Reason?



Please now read this Gospel passage:

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptised by John. John tried to dissuade him. 'It is I who need baptism from you,' he said 'and yet you come to me!' But Jesus replied, 'Leave it like this for the time being, it is fitting that we should, in this way, do all that righteousness demands.' At this, John gave in to him.

As soon as Jesus was baptised he came up from the water, and suddenly the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on him, and a voice spoke from heaven, 'This is my son, the Beloved; my favour rests on him.'

Please take a moment to reflect on these questions:

Why do you think Jesus offered himself to be baptised?

What is the importance of giving a name to a child?



# The Baptism Rite

## Water

At the time of the Baptism of the child, the priest or deacon will pour water from the font over the child's head three times, each time proclaiming, 'I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.' Water is a sign of cleaning and is calling upon God to cleanse us from the stain of Original Sin. It is also the sign of life - without water we cannot live. So at Baptism we celebrate being embraced by the love of God. The only reason we have life is because of God's undying love for each and every one of us .



## Oil of Chrism

We anoint the child on the crown of their head with an Oil called 'Chrism'. It is close to the word Christ which is Greek for 'Anointed One'. When one is anointed they are called or chosen for a important role in life. As people anointed by Christ at our Baptism, we are called to a life of discipleship, love and service to help build our kingdom here on earth. If you think that oil is used as a form of energy and power, so Christ strengthens us and empowers us at our Baptism.



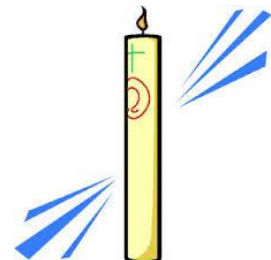
## White Garment

We ask the parents to bring a garment that covers the shoulders that is white (or cream). White is the sign of purity and we are to wear our baptismal garment all our life, which means to uphold the dignity that we are given by God.



## Candle

A baptism Candle is given to the child (which we usually ask the Godfather to hold) lit from the Paschal Candle, first lit at Easter. We celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ who is the light of the world who shows us the way to happiness and eternal life. At our Baptism, we are called to bring the light of Christ into our world.



**Please now watch on You Tube Bishop Robert Barron speak about The Sacrament of Baptism**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fV8uu9-sYSk>**