



# Baptism at Holy Family Parish Menai

Dear Parents,

Congratulations on your new child and on choosing to have your child baptised. It is good that you have made the decision to do this. Of all the important things that you will hand on to your children with love, there are none as important as faith in God and membership of the Church.

Your parish community is here to support you as you go about your efforts to bring up your children as Catholic Christians.

**It is essential that both parents attend a Baptism Preparation Course with the godparents that will be held on the 1st Saturday of each month from 11am until 12noon in the parish meeting rooms.**

**You will need to contact the Parish Office the week before the course on 9543 2677 to confirm your attendance.**

**There will be an attendance register to sign as you arrive for the meeting.**

## **So what happens when you ask for a Baptism at Holy Family Parish?**

- ♦ We need you to provide information for the Baptismal Register in Parish records. A **Baptism Enrolment Form** is available from the Parish Office.
- ♦ Decide a **date** for the Baptism.
- ♦ Infant baptisms are held every second Sunday of the month at **11:15am**, after 10am Mass and fourth Sunday **during the 10am Mass**. There can be exceptions - when Lent starts we prefer to postpone Baptisms until the Easter season. Lent is a time of preparation for Baptism. At other times in the year there may be a need to vary the baptism schedule due to other events.
- ♦ When you have set a date, you will be asked to attend a Baptism Preparation Course with the godparents that will be held on the 1st Saturday of each month from 11am until 12noon in the parish meeting rooms.
- ♦ Welcome Mass - you will also be asked to come to the 8.30am Mass, again with the godparents on the Sunday before the Baptism date with your child. During Mass we will welcome you and your child. The Rite of welcome will include asking the name of your child and the intentions you have.

## **How to prepare for the Baptism?**

Because Baptism means that you are choosing to hand on to your child something that you really believe is important for yourself, it makes sense that you try to live yourself the importance of your faith. **Come to Mass on Sundays and be nourished in your friendship with Jesus by hearing his Word and receiving him in Holy Communion.**

**Take time to pray about your own faith.** Ask Jesus and the Holy Spirit to make you stronger in your faith. You need all the help you can get to be at your best when you teach your child about God's love for him or her and about how important it is to be an active part of God's family, the Church.

And because Baptism is also about welcoming someone as a member of the Church family, it makes sense to be an active part of that family so that your child will see faith and belonging in action.

### **Who can be a Godparent?**

To be permitted to take on the function of Godparent a person must:

- be designated by the one to be baptised, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;
- have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the priest has granted an exception for a just cause;
- be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;
- not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;
- not be the father or mother of the one to be baptised.

A baptised person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community is not to participate except together with a Catholic sponsor and then only as a witness of the baptism.

### **How many Godparents are needed?**

There is to be only one male Godparent or one female Godparent or one of each.

## What about a Baptismal Candle?

The Baptismal candle is lit in the Baptismal Ceremony from the large Easter Candle which is a symbol of our Risen Lord. Thus, the Baptismal candle is a personal symbol that the one baptised has Jesus as his or her light and guide.



The Parish can provide a baptismal candle for your child when you come to Mass on the Sunday before the Baptism. You may also choose to arrange for a Baptismal Candle from another source.

Baptism garment will be provided from the Church that can be kept as a souvenir.



## Will it cost anything?

The easy answer to that is “There is no fee for a sacrament”. However, it is a custom to make a donation on the occasion of a Baptism. How much you choose is up to you.

**Please give the donation to your parish church at the time the completed information form is returned to the parish office. You can now also use the QR Code below.**



*Please note that whatever you donate goes into the same fund as the first collection at Mass. This fund, which is managed centrally by a committee of priests with professional advisers, pays for the salaries and upkeep of the priests of the local diocese. This includes food and housekeeping. Your support with this is appreciated.*