



*Holy Family Parish*  
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## **WELCOME TO THE PARISH'S BAPTISMAL PREPARATION PROGRAMME 2019**

Dear Parents

You have asked to have your child baptised - to become a member of the Catholic Community of Faith.

The Parish wishes to support and encourage you, and your child, as you journey to deepen your faith in Jesus Christ and his Church.

### **THE REASON FOR THE PREPARATION PROGRAMME**

As parents, you will realise the important step you are undertaking by requesting to have your child baptised. To assist in the appreciation of the commitment you are making - the Parish asks you to attend two sessions of preparation and instruction. In these sessions an explanation of the Sacrament of Baptism will be given.

These sessions are a requirement for the parents; godparents are also welcomed and encouraged to attend.

### **PRACTISING THE FAITH**

The Church's Code of Canon Law (Canon #868) states: ***"There must be a founded hope that the child to be baptised will be raised in the practise of the Faith"***.

This means that you, as parents, wish to live the Christian Faith as Catholics. A basic expression of this intention is your regular attendance at Sunday Mass with the local Catholic Community.

You must also have the intention of providing for the Religious Education of your child.

### **SPONSORS – GODPARENTS**

In the Sacrament of Baptism, your child will have godparents, or sponsors. These people are to be chosen carefully in order to serve as good Christian 'role models' for your child.

The godparents also represent the Church. The godparents are required to make a commitment to support you in raising your child in the practise of the Faith.

The Catholic Church (Canon #874) requires that godparents are to be:

- suitable and have the right intention to live a christian life
- over the age of 16 years, (that is, not be a child)
- **baptised Christians**, of whom **one must be a Catholic**.

A date for Baptism is arranged during the Programme.

The appropriate place for celebrating baptism is the Parish church – the focus of faith for the local Catholic Community.

Please note that the next series of Baptismal Preparation Meetings will be on:

- **Sundays 28 April & 5 May, 7.00 pm – 8.15 pm**
- **St Thomas' Church lounge**  
**12 Mountain View Road.**

Fr Brian Fennessy  
PARISH PRIEST