



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



Baptism is the first sacrament we receive and the way in which a person becomes a member of the Catholic Church.

If you are considering Baptism for your child, you will first need to contact the Parish Office to arrange a meeting with the Priest.

Please read through the information below before the meeting.

Do you live within our Parish boundary and/or worship at St. Elphege's Church, Wallington?

If we are not your parish church, you may need a letter from your parish priest to confirm your membership and granting us the permission to baptise your child.

Have you recently moved to the area?

If so, you will need to provide a letter from a previous church to confirm your attendance elsewhere

Do you have your own Baptism Certificate?

At least one parent should be catholic and the priest will need to see their baptism certificate at the initial meeting.

Are you able to attend our baptism preparation class?

This is compulsory before baptism can take place. Baptism Courses are held on the first Wednesday of every month and last for an hour. Both parents should attend where possible, but if not, the Catholic parent needs to attend the Baptism Course. A date for baptism can be booked at this session or afterwards by phoning the Parish Office (on 020 8647 5079).

Who can be a Godparent to your child?

Please decide who you want to be Godparents before arranging your meeting. You are required to have at least one Godparent (maximum two Godparents, one of each gender ie one male and one female). All Godparents must be:

- Practicing Catholic
each Godparent needs to obtain a letter from their own Parish Priest confirming their worship.
- Over 16
- Confirmed
- In good standing with the church
- Living a life of faith which benefits the role to be undertaken.

Other Christian denominations can be classed as Sponsors. Members of other faiths, or of none, are not eligible due to our differences in faith.

If you are happy with all the above information and would like to arrange a baptism, please complete the Form. **DO NOT** complete the form if your child is adopted, please speak to the Parish Priest.

- It is customary for parents to express their gratitude for the baptism of their child/children by donating to the Church. The amount is to be decided by each family and varies according to one's financial circumstances.