

# **CELEBRATING YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISM**

**- EXPLANATION OF PARENT'S MEETINGS -**

***THE SACRAMENT  
OF BAPTISM IS  
CELEBRATED ON  
THE 2<sup>nd</sup> SATURDAY  
OF EACH MONTH  
AT 12 NOON***



**ST JOHN VIANNEY PARISH  
WEST GREEN N15 3QH**

## YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISM

The Baptism of your child is a very important time for your whole family. For this reason, the Church asks that you are well prepared so that you can celebrate this Sacrament with understanding and joy.

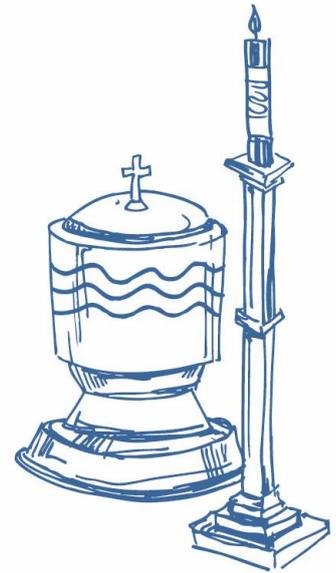
The Sacrament of Baptism needs the same sort of planning and preparation as do the other Sacraments such as Holy Communion, Reconciliation, Confirmation, Marriage and Holy Orders.

All sacraments are opportunities for us to meet with God, to re-encounter His love for us, to understand deeper who He is for us, and who we are for Him.

It is so easy for us to be part of a celebration and miss the meaning of it or to miss the opportunity to deepen our understanding of the mystery it brings us face to face with: **NEW LIFE IN CHRIST.**

During the Baptismal Ceremony these words are spoken to the parents: *“You have asked to have your child Baptised. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him/her up to keep God’s commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?”*

To help parents respond to this question with a convinced ‘Yes’, we invite you to come to our baptism preparation programme.



## WHAT IS THE BAPTISM PROGRAMME?

The meetings are a chance for you to think about your own Baptism and Faith. Some may ask: Is this really necessary? The simple answer is ‘YES’.

Why? Because we never cease to learn about the Truths of our Faith. These are special moments in your life and in the life of your child. Make the most of them!

We aim to help you to prepare so that you can celebrate your child’s Baptism in the best possible way by understanding not only what happens during the celebration, but also the importance of baptism itself.

## WHAT HAPPENS IN THE MEETINGS?

Parents and leaders gather to explore:

- Why Baptism? Sharing of faith, concerns, doubts, joys, etc., with other adult Christians...
- Exploring the words, signs and symbols in the Baptism Ceremony.
- How are you doing on your own faith journey?
- What do you want for your child? Praying with your child, the future, choice of schools...
- Where does the Parish Community fit in?

These topics will be discussed in the meetings through video, shared experiences and the written words.



## WHEN?

The Baptism Programme consists of two meetings with the parents of the child:

- ❖ **The first session** usually takes place on the first or second Monday of the month at 7:30pm, before the actual day of baptism.  
*(Please see parish newsletter for dates)*
- ❖ **The second session** takes place *after* the Baptism Celebration and the Baptism certificate will be given to the parents.  
*(The date will be arranged at the first session)*

**The Sacrament of Baptism** itself is usually celebrated on the second Saturday of every month. *(This may be subject to change – please see parish newsletter for dates)*

## PASTORAL POLICY FOR BAPTISM IN THE HARINGEY DEANERY and WESTMINSTER DIOCESE

The Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are the three Sacraments of Initiation into the Roman Catholic Church.

We are obliged to make sure that all the requirements are in place for the good of the infant/child being baptised:

- It is obvious that at least one of the parents should be a baptised Roman Catholic and practising their faith.

- At least one of the Godparents should also be a baptised Roman Catholic and practising their faith.

Some parents, in good faith, have been requesting Catholic baptism for their child/children, while they themselves are not Roman Catholics. This is not a recommended practice. For the child to develop his/her identity as a Catholic, he/she needs the constant guidance of at least one parents to pass on this Faith through word and action in their daily lives. Attending a Roman Catholic School and/or Catholic Church doesn't of itself make a person a Roman Catholic.

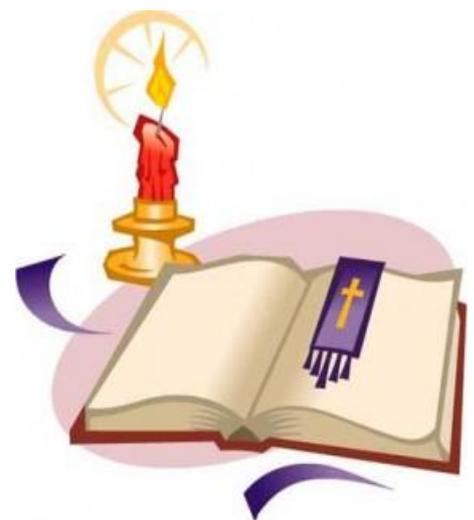
It is because of the importance of the Sacrament of Baptism that we have to follow the Pastoral guidelines given by the Westminster Diocese.

## REQUIREMENTS:

- Baptism application form - filled out.
- Copy of the Child's Birth Certificate.
- Baptism Certificate of at least one practising Catholic Parent.
- Baptism Certificate of at least one practising Catholic God-parent.
- If you are living outside the area of St John Vianney Parish, you will need to get a letter from the Parish Priest within whose Parish you live.
- A Donation to the Church is appropriate in the name of your family.
- Baptismal Candle (*for the day of Baptism*)
- White Garment, e.g. shawl... (*for the day of Baptism*)

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*“God is the giver of all life, human and divine. May He bless the father and mother of this child. They will be the first teachers of their child in the ways of faith. May they also be the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do, in Christ Jesus our Lord.”*  
(excerpt from the Baptism Ceremony)



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**Having read this leaflet, please make an appointment with Sr. Devy (07403 784 463) to submit the required documents.**