

APPLICATION FOR BAPTISM

Christian Name(s) and Surname of Child to be Baptised

Place of Birth: _____ Date: _____

Name of Father: _____ (Religion) _____

Name of Mother: _____ (Religion) _____

Maiden Name: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____ Telephone Number: _____

Place and Date of Marriage: _____

Full Name of Godfather: _____ (Religion) _____

Full Name of Godmother: _____ (Religion) _____

NB: Either Godfather or Godmother must be a practising Catholic and must have been confirmed.

To Be Baptized is to

- a) Become a child of God.
- b) Become a member of the Church of Christ.
- c) Share in the death and resurrection of Christ.
- d) Become a temple of the Holy Spirit.

This involves a serious undertaking to lead a life of attachment to Our Lord. Hence the parents of the child are asked to answer the following questions:

Do you realise that in asking to have your child baptised you accept the duty of raising him / her in the faith of the Catholic Church, so that by observing the commandments he / she will love God and neighbours as Christ taught us?

Answer: _____

Will you fulfil this duty by word and example?

Answer: _____

We / I declare the we / I understand the meaning, privileges and duties of Baptism and that we / I have answered the questions truthfully before God.

Signatures: _____ (Father) _____ (Mother)

In the case of a "mixed" marriage the partner who belongs to another Christian community may wish to give the same undertaking. If not he / she is asked to make the following declaration:

I willingly allow my child to be Baptized according to the rite and teaching of the Catholic Church.

Signature: _____

If the Child is to be Baptised in a parish other than that in which the parents reside, they must obtain the permission of their own Parish Priest:

I hereby give permission for the child to be baptised in the Parish of: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Date of Baptism: _____ Time of Baptism: _____

Sacred Heart Church, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire, SN4 7AH

Dear Parents,

Do you want your child to be baptised?

Baptism is a very important step to take and it needs to be thought about carefully. It means much more than a ceremony in Church, or an excuse for a party! Being baptised means becoming a Christian – and being a Christian is something that should influence the way you think, the way you talk and the way you live your life everyday.

Baptism means a life-long commitment to God. When a child is baptised, the parents undertake to bring up their child to know and to practice their faith and the faith of the church, until the child is old enough to make that faith their own.

What is Baptism?

The Sacrament of Baptism is given by pouring water in the name of the three Persons of the Trinity. Jesus told us that unless a man is born again of water and the Holy Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven. It is through God's action in this Sacrament that we become members of his Church and are adopted into his Family. Water is the symbol of life, and the life that we are given in Baptism is the life of Christ Himself. We become new people and with God's help we have to try to live a new kind of life.

What Does This Mean For Parents?

As parents you have given life to your child, but birth is only a beginning. Your baby still depends on you for everything, for food, clothes and a loving home in which to grow. This is equally true of the Christian life. Baptism is only the beginning, every child develops by being trained and the home is the main training ground with parents the most important teachers. Parents naturally pass on their language and their culture to their children – those who gratefully acknowledge the Christian faith as part of their way of life cannot but wish to pass that on too.

How Can They Do This?

It is in the home, where the child first experiences love and a sense of belonging, that he will also learn about the love of God and learn to talk to God in prayer. All children learn naturally more from the example of the daily lives of their parents than from any formal teaching of the principles and guidelines of Christian living.

When your child is at school, you will find that a Catholic School will help you to continue their education. As well as the usual academic skills and crafts, the school will help you prepare your child for the sacraments and deepen their knowledge of the Catholic faith and moral values. The school though is no substitute for a family where the faith is really lived and practised, a home where there is kindness, honesty and true Christian love, a home that recognises its need for God through prayer, through coming to Mass and regular use of the sacraments.