

Dear Parents

HOLY BAPTISMS IN OUR PARISH OF CAMDEN

Congratulations on the birth of the latest little addition to your family. First baby, second, third, fourth or fifth, boy or girl, recent or not-so-recent....! all children are special; they are gifts from God and they need to be given lots of time, lots of love and lots of affection. There is one other gift they need to be given from their parents, and it is the most important of all gifts – it is the gift of faith.

By presenting your baby to our parish for baptism, you are taking a big step in handing on the faith, and beginning a process of spiritual formation that will/should continue under your guidance for at least the first 15 years of your child's life. This is a wonderful privilege as well as a very important responsibility. I encourage all parents to accept this responsibility with deep resolve. I would like to bring to your attention a few teachings about this sacrament:

- ✓ Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and to everlasting life. It is the door which gives access to other sacraments. Through baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons and daughters of God. We become members of Christ, are incorporated into the church and made sharers in her mission. Those being baptised are blessed with a priceless grace.
- ✓ Baptism is the sacrament of faith, and faith needs the community of believers. This is why it is so important for parents to bring their children to Mass on Sundays. The faith of all is supported and strengthened whenever we are at church in the company of the priest and those who share our commitment.
- ✓ For all the baptised, children or adults, faith must grow after baptism. For this faith to unfold, the parents' help is important. So too is the role of godfather and godmother who must be firm believers and ready to help the newly baptised on the road to Christian life.

Parents, this is a time and, indeed, an opportunity to not only present your baby to our parish for baptism, but to also renew your own faith and commitment by joining our worshipping community on Sunday. Perhaps you might also wish to prepare privately for this holy occasion by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday mornings from 9.30am –10.15am. Certainly, the Catholic parents ought to attend Mass on the day of their child's baptism, and on all Sundays where possible.

So the next big step is for both parents to attend one preparation evening. These evenings are held on the second Wednesday of each month in the Church at 7.00pm. Please ring the presbytery during office hours (Tuesday to Friday) to register, and complete the details of this enrolment form and return at this time. From the following Friday morning onwards, any need for private interviews can be organised and proposed dates for baptism can be confirmed. Looking forward to meeting up once again.

Sincerely

Father Michael Williams PP

BAPTISM INFORMATION

- Parents are welcome to choose almost any Sunday of the year. For dates unavailable in the foreseeable future, please contact the parish office.
- Baptisms begin about 11.15am. Parents are asked to try to attend the 10.00am Mass on the day of their baby's baptism. Guests – and especially the Godparents – should also be invited to the 10.00am Mass and then to the baptism.
- Godparents. At least one Godparent must be Catholic.
- Babies should be dressed in white or cream clothing. There is a special symbolism in the colouring that will be explained to guests during the ceremony. Babies should not be over-dressed as the temperature in the church is normally quite warm late morning.
- Babies can be fed in church and during the baptism ceremony, either breast-fed or bottle-fed.
- Cameras and video equipment are permitted, though the users of this equipment should try to be discreet. Directions will be given at the beginning of the ceremony.
- Parents should ensure that a baptism candle has been purchased. The church has a little gift shop that sells a range of suitable candles. The gift shop is normally open before and after Mass on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings. The parish office also has access mid-week.
- Donation – We suggest that an offering be given to the Priest performing the ceremony.
- If you have a preference for a particular priest then please contact the Parish Office prior to your Baptism Class.

Further inquiries can be directed to the Parish Office, or to Father Michael. At such a significant time, parents should try to take this time in their baby's baptism as an opportunity for their own spiritual renewal. Regular contact with our parish community by presence at Sunday Mass is always enriching and greatly encouraged.

Father Michael Williams PP

ST PAUL'S CAMDEN - DETAILS OF BAPTISM

Please write clearly

CHILD'S SURNAME: _____ Male/Female (Please circle)

CHRISTIAN NAMES: _____

ADDRESS: _____
_____ POSTCODE: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

PARENT (s) E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Are you happy to receive E-mails from Parish Office. Yes/No

DATE OF BIRTH: _____ PLACE OF BIRTH: _____

FATHER'S SURNAME _____

CHRISTIAN NAMES: _____

RELIGION: _____

MOTHER'S MAIDEN: _____

CHRISTIAN NAMES: _____

RELIGION: _____

CHURCH WHERE MARRIED _____

GODPARENTS: _____ RELIGION: _____

_____ RELIGION: _____

_____ RELIGION: _____

DATE OF BAPTISM: _____

CHURCH: _____ PRIEST: _____

Would you like to have your child's baptism featured in the Parish Community News. YES/NO(Please circle)

	Full Name – First and Last	Phone Number
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

Please be mindful of limitations relating to photos. Because of social distancing, the only photo with the priest will be mum and dad holding the baby on one side of the font, and the priest on the other side of the font. Under normal circumstances godparents also stand around the font during the baptism, but this is not possible under the prevailing conditions.

Please check with the parish office on current limits for attendees. All attendees details need to be listed, children included.