

PASTORAL POLICY FOR BAPTISM: HARINGEY DEANERY & WESTMINSTER DIOCESE

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 parent 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.



DOCUMENTS TO SUBMIT

- A completed **Baptism Application form**.
- A copy of the child's **Birth Certificate**.
- A copy of the **Baptism Certificate** of at least one practising Catholic **parent**.
- A copy of the **Baptism Certificate** of at least one practising Catholic **godparent**.
- If you are living outside the area of St John Vianney Parish, you will need to get a letter from the Parish Priest of the church where you live.



A donation from your family to the Church is also appropriate, and can be submitted either with the required documents or on the day of your child's baptism.

BAPTISM CELEBRATION

The Sacrament of Baptism itself is usually celebrated on the **2nd Saturday of every month, at 12 noon**. This may be subject to change, so please confirm the dates when you submit your application.

For the day of Baptism, you will also need:

- A Baptismal candle
- A white garment for your child (e.g. shawl)

Having read this leaflet, please make an appointment with Sr. Anabel (07455 544 065) to submit the required documents.

CELEBRATING YOUR CHILD'S

Baptism



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

ST JOHN VIANNEY PARISH
West Green N15 3QL

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.

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.

BAPTISM PREPARATION 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.

In these meetings, parents gather to explore and discuss:

- The words, signs and symbols in the Baptism Ceremony.
- Why Baptism? Sharing of faith, concerns, doubts, joys, etc. with other adult Christians
- 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?



WHEN?

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

- ❖ **Session I** - usually takes place on the 1st or 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30pm before the actual day of baptism.
- ❖ **Session II** - takes place *after* the Baptism Celebration. Parents will receive their child’s Baptism certificate at the meeting.

Godparents are also most welcomed to come.

Please check the parish notice board or newsletter for the next session dates.



“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)