

The Sacrament of Baptism in Handforth, Alderley Edge, and Wilmslow

It is wonderful that you are requesting baptism for your child!

Through baptism we are reborn as children of God and become members of Christ.

We hope you will be regular member of our Sunday Mass community.

Step 1 Introductions – In Alderley Edge and Wilmslow, please introduce yourself to the priest after Sunday Mass before beginning the process of organising a baptism. In Handforth, please speak to Deacon Tom after Sunday Mass. If you have not been attending Mass each Sunday, then now is the time to begin as you will make solemn promises to raise your child in the Catholic faith through worship and by teaching them to keep the commandments, by loving God and others. It is necessary that at least one of the parents of the child due to be baptised is Catholic. Your child's baptism can serve as a time for you to return to Mass leading by example. By Church law, the parish priest must have a reasonable hope that the parents intend to raise their child in the Catholic faith. You are members of the family of God and belong with us. Being present with the community each Sunday is a commitment that requires prioritising until it becomes a normal part of your weekly rhythm. Like anything worthwhile, honouring the Lord's Day with thanksgiving at Mass will give added value to your life and eternities.

Step 2 Preparation – At present Fr Tony, Fr Moses, or Deacon Tom will be in touch with you to offer some form of preparation. We might try to arrange a home visit to discuss baptism with you or we might send you some video links to watch clips about baptism.

We usually celebrate baptisms at 12noon on Saturdays in Alderley Edge and Wilmslow, and on Sundays after the 10am Mass in Handforth. Once you have returned your completed booking form (given to you by the priest or deacon), we'll be able to confirm the date.

Please choose one or two godparents; at least one must be a practicing Catholic. You are welcome to have other people with the godparents as Christian witnesses, and they can have the same role as godparents at the baptism service. People who belong to another faith can be many things to a child, but they cannot be a godparent or Christian witness because they are not able to be a role model in the Catholic Christian faith. If you want to look further into what the Church asks regarding godparents, then you can discover more at this website: <https://www.scripturecatholic.com/the-roles-and-requirements-of-a-catholic-godparent-and-confirmation-sponsor/>

If your child is over the age of 7, then they would need some instruction in the faith before receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Forgiveness, and First Holy Communion. This process usually involves attending Mass each Sunday for a year before receiving baptism.

Step 3 Confirming the date - We will then get in touch with you to confirm the requested date of baptism or, if baptisms are booked up, we may ask you to change the requested date. Please bring a white garment or shawl on the day of baptism that will be used in the celebration.

God bless you.

