PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISM



Practical details and questions you may have as you prepare for your child's Baptism: Choosing Godparents, etc.

Request for Baptism?

- Six weeks' notice is required when booking a Baptism.
- Baptisms are celebrated on Saturdays at 4:30 pm and Sundays at 12noon.
- Request Forms are available online at www.ccpp.ie or from our Sacristies.

Will it be one family only or a number of families together?

- Usually there will be only one family, but the Baptismal team will let you know when they are confirming your date and time if there is more than one.

How long will the ceremony take?

- It varies, usually about forty-five minutes.

Selecting a Baptism Name

- Parents will have selected a name for their child before the day of Baptism.

Traditionally, Christian parents have included a saint's name in their child's name. This is a lovely practice as it is our way of recognising that the child is becoming a member of a community of the followers of Christ. Parents can tell the child the story of the saint and why they chose that name for them and link this story to the day of their child's own Baptism.

Godparents: How many Godparents are allowed and what are their duties on the Day?

- Normally two, one male, one female.
- They must be over sixteen years of age.
- One must be a practicing Catholic.
- The godparents are asked at the start of the ceremony by the Priest 'Are you ready to help these parents in their duty as Christian fathers and mothers'? Thus, the role of the godparent is to be a good Christian role model.
- The godparent holds the candle and shawl for the parents during the ceremony and hands them to the Priest when he requests them.

When must we return the signed form for Baptism?

- Your Baptismal Request Form must be returned together with a copy of your child's State Birth Certificate six weeks before a time and date for the baptism can be confirmed.
- Parents names **MUST** be the same as on your child's State Birth Certificate.
- Forms must be returned to Sacristy in either Church, or placed in the secure box on the wall in both Churches or emailed. **(For the Attention of the Baptismal Team.)**
- A member of the Baptismal team will contact you when your requested date and time for

Baptism has been confirmed by the Priest, or to offer you an alternative date and time if your requested date and time is not available.

What do we need to bring with us on the Baptismal Day?

- You must bring a baptismal candle. A baptismal candle is a white candle that will be blessed during the service. This candle will again be used by your child for the Sacrament of Communion.
- You can purchase baptismal candles in most shops(e.g. Eason's, Abbey Bookstore, The Augustinians Church, Knock Shrine Shop, Veritas online. Etc.)

- You must bring a white garment or shawl, to wrap the baby in when they have been baptised by the priest. A white shawl wrapped around your child symbolises God's grace wrapped fresh and new around them.

- The child will probably be dressed in white, but (she) he does not need to be. White is the colour we put on after the chid is baptised. (usually a shawl.) Check to see if there is a shawl that may have been used before in the family, it is a lovely tradition to pass the shawl or baptismal gown down from one generation to the next.

Offering: - to Priest and Sacristan how much?

- It is suggested (€40-€60 to the Priest) and (€20-€30 to the Sacristan.)
- When you return your Baptismal Request Form or attend your Preparation Meeting for Parents/Guardian which takes place **by arrangement with you** the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm in Caherconlish Church, you may bring your offering for the Priest and Sacristan. **(please use addressed envelopes provided).**

Can we invite family and friends to "read" sing, or do prayers of the faithful?

- Yes, you can, family or friends might like to compose their own prayer or sing a hymn, or there are prayers and readings in the Booklet you will have received at the Baptismal meeting.

Can we take photographs on the day?

- Yes, it is lovely to take some photographs on this special day, and those photographs will probably be used by the "Do This In Memory Group" for further sacraments your child will receive e.g., Communion. It is a good idea to come a little early before the ceremony to take some photographs, but you are also welcome to take them during the ceremony.



CHECK LIST ON DAY OF BAPTISM FOR CHURCH

- **The Christening Celebration Booklet (given to you at Baptismal Preparation meeting with Prayers of the Faithful, Readings and Music, Hymn/Song (if you would like).**
- **Baptismal White Candle.**
- **A White Garment, and a white Shawl to wrap the baby in after the Baptism.**
- **Offering for Priest and Sacristan may be returned at Baptismal Preparation meeting you are attending to a member of the Baptismal team. (in the sealed enveloped provided in the information pack.) or when you are returning your Baptismal Request Form.**
- **A copy of Prayers of the Faithful for Priest, if writing your own prayers.**
- **Camera**
- **BABY!!!!**

Have an enriching day,
Blessed with
FAITH,
HOPE,
AND MUCH LOVE

WELCOME TO CAHERCONLISH/CAHERLINE PARISH FAMILY.

