



SAINT PHILIP NERI

CATHOLIC PARISH BIRKENHEAD

Baptism:
What do I need to know?



Baptism Preparation at the Parish of Saint Philip Neri

Thank you for enquiring about the baptism of your child at Saint Michael & All Angels church or Saint Joseph's church in the Parish of Saint Philip Neri, Birkenhead.

Baptism is an important event in the life of your family, with relatives and friends coming together to share your joy and happiness at the birth of your child. It is also a very important and joyful event in the life of the Church. Through Baptism your child will enter into the life of Jesus Christ, they will become part of the Church and seek to grow in the ways of God, therefore it is necessary to prepare for this important and exciting event.



Since, through Baptism, your child will be entering into the Catholic Church, at least **one parent must be a baptised Catholic**. To have your child baptised here at Saint Philip's we expect to see you at Sunday Mass on a regular basis and you will need to attend a Baptism Preparation Meeting. These meetings happen on the first Wednesday of each month (except January and August) at 7pm in the Raiswell Room in Saint Joseph's Presbytery. Please contact the Parish Office and book a place at the meeting most suitable for you. At the meeting you will have the opportunity to fill in a Baptism Application Form, and hopefully agree a date for the baptism with the clergy. Please note that **Baptisms do not take place during Lent** (from Ash Wednesday onwards) which, traditionally, is a time of preparation for Baptism at Easter.

The Canon Law of the Catholic Church states that there is be **only one Godparent**, but if you wish to have two Godparents, they must be one God Father and one God Mother. **Godparents must be baptised and confirmed Catholics** over the age of sixteen, and ideally practicing. We cannot make any exceptions, so please do not ask. The role of the Godparent/s is an incredibly important one, the Godparents are there to assist and support you as the parents in bringing your child up in the practice of the Catholic faith, which is what they promise to do during the Baptism ceremony. For Godparents to offer you that kind of support, they need to be Catholics too. They should be the person that will encourage you to bring your child to Mass each Sunday and will hassle you if you don't! They will be the person who your child can turn to if they have questions about their faith in Jesus Christ that you can't answer. They will be the person who will encourage you to live your life following in the footsteps of Jesus Christ and the saints, so that you can set that example for your child. The Godparents are incredibly important, so choose wisely.

Baptism is normally celebrated in the Parish where you are living, so if you live outside the Parish of Saint Philip Neri, you will be required to get written permission from the Parish Priest of the Parish where you are living.

There is no charge for sacraments, but it is customary to make a donation to the member of the clergy who administers the baptism for your child, and if you can to the parish. At the preparation meeting you will be given an envelope for you and your family to make a donation, and there will also be a collection basket at the back of church for your guests to contribute towards the upkeep of our parish. It costs approximately £300 a day to run Saint Philip's Parish!



It is the norm in this country for babies to be baptised, however, for children seven years and older and for adults, baptism is possible but they will need to undergo special preparation. For further details of this preparation please speak to one of the Clergy Team.

If you have any other queries which are have not been covered, please feel free to contact the Parish Office.

With every blessing
Father Chris

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