



Sacrament of Baptism

Introduction & Guidelines for Mary Immaculate Church

Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit and the door which gives access to the other Sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from original sin and re-born as adopted sons and daughters of God. We become members of Christ, a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, that we may declare the wonderful deeds of Him who called us out of darkness into His wonderful light. (1 Peter 2:9). Baptism is aptly called by the Church, the Sacrament of Regeneration through water and the word.
(Catechism of the Catholic Church n.1213)

At Baptism, the first Sacrament of Initiation, your child will be officially welcomed into the Catholic faith and our Church community.

A child is usually baptised in his/her own Parish Church. Residents of the Parish wishing to arrange a baptism should contact the Parish Office on (02) 9369 9399 or email office@waverleycatholic.org.au.

People normally receive Baptism in the Parish where they live. However, requests may be made for baptism at Mary Immaculate Church, Waverley. Baptism of those who do not live within the Waverley Parish requires permission of the Parish Priest of their place of residence.

If you currently don't attend a Parish, you are best to contact Fr Bernie directly first to see how you can proceed. His best contact details are (02) 9369 9328 or parishpriest@waverleycatholic.org.au.

Baptism of Infants

Infants are baptised at the request of their parents or the person who lawfully takes their place who wish to share their Catholic faith with their children.

The parents of a child being baptised are called to prepare for the baptism by:

- Renewing their commitment to Christ,
- Resolving to share their faith with their child,
- And showing this by living the faith.
- **NB:** Current church teaching requires that at least one parent be Catholic.

Baptism of Older Children

Before older children are baptised, they undergo a period of instruction in the Catholic faith appropriate to their level of understanding. This period will depend upon the understanding of the child. Contact the Parish office to arrange a meeting with the Parish Priest.



Baptism of Adults

Contact the Parish Priest to arrange a meeting - parishpriest@waverleycatholic.org.au

The role of Godparents

There must be at least one Catholic Godparent to assist the parents with the Catholic upbringing of the baptised child:

- Be mature enough to accept this responsibility there must be 16 years or over in age;
- Be a member of the Catholic Church (though a believing Christian from another church may be a godparent along with a Catholic).
- **Have received Baptism, Eucharist & Confirmation.** Because the Godparents have a duty to be true examples of Catholic life for the growing child therefore they should be actively practicing the Catholic faith.

Our Baptism Programme

The Sacrament of Baptism at Mary Immaculate has three core components:

- The Baptism Preparation Session
- The Presentation Mass and
- The Baptism Ceremony.

Your child cannot be baptised unless all components of the programme are completed and permission from your local parish of residence.

The Baptism Preparation Session

The session will run on the first Thursday of the month and runs for approximately an hour. This session is for parents only, so please arrange a sitter.

During this session, you will meet up with the other families who will be celebrating their child's Baptism at the same time as your child. You will also have an opportunity to explore the beautiful rituals and rich symbolism that make up the Sacrament of Baptism. Your facilitator will walk you through the actual Baptism ceremony. You will be given the chance to ask any questions that you may have, during this session.

The Presentation Mass

As Baptism is the welcoming of your child into the Catholic faith, we at Waverley Parish believe that there is no better way to welcome your child into our Parish family than to invite you to join us for mass at either 8:30am or 10:00am on a Sunday morning, a weekend before your child's Baptism. During the mass, the Parish Priest will invite you to come to the front of the church and will present your child to the congregation.

The Baptism Ceremony

The ceremony takes place at 10:30am on the third and fourth Sunday of each month in the church. Your family and friends will gather around your child and the godparents and be invited to participate in the ceremony by joining in with the responses in the Baptism booklet (provided on the day). The ceremony itself is about 40 mins, depending on the number of children being Baptised at the time.

Donation

There is no set fee for the celebration of baptism. It is customary to make a donation to the priest who baptises the child. Parents from outside St Charles Parish are asked to consider making a separate donation to the Parish.

Bookings

Normally two months notice is required. To confirm a date is available, contact our Parish Secretary on (02) 9369 9399 or email office@waverleycatholic.org.au. To book in your child for baptism, please complete this booking form (and permission form if required). A copy of one (1) catholic parent's Baptism certificate and one (1) catholic godparent's Confirmation certificate or recent Baptism certificate (issued in last 6 months) is required at the time of booking.

The Ceremony Day:

- Families should aim to be there by 10:15am, ready to start at 10:30am.
- A donation to support the priest of the church on the day is customary and can be handed to the priest.
- It is customary for your child to wear something white on the day (a white shirt is ok for boys).
- Parents need to purchase one candle per child to light during the ceremony. Special baptism candles are available for purchase at the Devotional Shop located inside the church after morning mass. Otherwise any pillar candle you can hold during the ceremony is appropriate.

PARISH OF ST CHARLES BORROMEO | MARY IMMACULATE CHURCH WAVERLEY

The Parish Centre: PO Box 577, Waverley NSW 2024

Phone: (02) 9369 9399 | Email: office@waverleycatholic.org.au | www.waverleycatholic.org.au

Office Hours: 9:30am - 2:30pm Tuesday to Friday

Local Parish Permission Form

People normally receive Baptism in the Parish where they live. However, requests may be made for baptism at Mary Immaculate Church, Waverley. Baptism of those who do not live within the Waverley Parish requires permission of the Parish Priest of their place of residence.

Please ensure this form is completed by your Parish Priest for approval and returned with the attached booking form.

DATE: _____

I, Fr. _____ PARISH PRIEST /ADMINISTRATOR

OF THE PARISH OF _____ ,
(Name of church & suburb)

GIVE PERMISSON FOR THE BAPTISM OF _____ ,
(Full name of child)

THE CHILD OF _____ AND _____
(Name of Father) (Name of Mother)

TO BE CONDUCTED AT MARY IMMACULATE CHURCH, WAVERLEY ON _____ .
(Date of Proposed Baptism)

(Signature of Parish Priest)

(Parish Seal)

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Office Hours: 9:30am-2:30pm Tuesday (emails only), Wednesday to Friday (in office)

BAPTISM DATE:		BAPTISM TIME: (10:30AM SUNDAY)	
CHILD'S FULL NAME: (ONE FORM PER CHILD)			
D.O.B:		PLACE OF BIRTH:	
HOME ADDRESS: <div>POSTCODE:</div>			
FATHER'S FULL NAME:		MOTHER'S FULL NAME:	
RELIGION:		RELIGION:	
DATE & PLACE OF MARRIAGE:		MOTHER'S MAIDEN SURNAME:	
MOBILE & EMAIL:		MOBILE & EMAIL:	
PARISH OF RESIDENCE (PARISH YOU ATTEND):			
PRIEST NAME:			
<p>We ask that our child _____ be baptised into the community of God's people. We personally believe in Jesus Christ, and in the good news of his life and teaching. We are committed to a Christian way of life and to sharing our faith with our children.</p> <p>We accept from God the responsibility for the Christian upbringing of our child within the family of the Church. We acknowledge that this will involve family prayer, community worship and a pattern of true Christian living.</p> <p>We rely on God's help and on the support of the Mary Immaculate Catholic Church community</p> <p>Signed: Father _____ Mother _____</p>			
We have chosen committed Christians as Godparents, one of whom is a confirmed Catholic and 16 years old or older <u>(Please provide proof of Confirmation of one Catholic Godparent or Baptism certificate issued in last 6 months)</u>			
GODPARENT'S FULL NAME:		GODPARENT'S FULL NAME:	
RELIGION:		RELIGION:	
GODPARENT'S FULL NAME:		GODPARENT'S FULL NAME:	
RELIGION:		RELIGION:	