

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HOLY EUCHARIST & ST. MARY'S MALVERN EAST

Holy Eucharist Church

1241 Dandenong Rd
Malvern East



St. Mary's Church

91 Manning Rd
Malvern East

Parish Office & Presbytery: 91 Manning Rd, Malvern East 3145

Tel 03 9571 2407 Fax 03 9571 5094 Email malverneast@cam.org.au Web www.cam.org.au/malverneast

CELEBRATING YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISM AT ST. MARY'S & HOLY EUCHARIST 2017 PROGRAM

What is Baptism?

Through the waters of Baptism we are:

- Spiritually reborn and adopted as a child of God;
- Incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ;
- Welcomed into our local parish family.

Place of Baptism

The Baptism of your child should take place in your own local parish church, or the church where you regularly go to Mass. In this way you are connected to your local Catholic Community and it celebrates the fact that your child, through Baptism, becomes a brother or sister to the local Catholic Family. That is far more important than going back to the church you were married in, or choosing the 'nicest' church, etc.



Only for very grave pastoral reasons can we baptise a child whose family does not live, or worship, in the parish and in such cases written permission must be given by your own parish priest.

Infant Baptism

The normal rite of entry into the Church for adults, and children old enough to answer for themselves, is to be Baptised and Confirmed and to receive Holy Communion, at the same time, in one special ceremony. In the case of infants, Confirmation and First Communion are postponed until they reach the 'age of reason' and they have some understanding of the Catholic Faith and what it means to 'belong' to the Church. Infants are only baptised on the understanding that their parents and Godparents will:

- Ensure that their child is taught the Catholic Faith.
- Bring their child to Mass regularly so that they experience being a part of the regular worshipping community.
- Bring their child to Confirmation and Communion at the appropriate age so that the rite of Baptism, and their child's initiation into the Church, may be completed.

Responsibilities?

You have asked to have your child baptised. Now you are responsible for the ongoing religious education of your baptised child. Baptism brings with it special responsibilities. Just as belonging to our human family has responsibilities so does belonging to God's family.

If we freely choose Baptism then we also choose to accept those responsibilities!

In Baptism we promise to:

- Reject sin and evil!
- Practise the Christian Faith!
- Worship regularly with our Christian family!

During the Baptism Ceremony, if one of the parents cannot make the profession of faith (for example they are not baptised themselves or they are of a non-Christian faith) they may stand with their spouse during the profession of faith but keep silent as the renewal of baptismal promises are made. However they must give permission for the baptism to take place and participate as they feel able in conscience to do.

Baptismal Name

It is customary at Baptism to give your child a 'Baptismal' name to signify their new life in Christ. The time honoured tradition is that the baptismal name is the name of a Saint. The chosen Saint provides a model of what it means for your child to be a disciple of Christ and serves as a special friend or patron for your child throughout their life. You can also pray for the intercession of your child's patron saint for their physical and spiritual wellbeing. Although we live in a secular culture this is a tradition well worth holding onto since a name is such an important way of giving a child a sense of identity. It can also give a child a role model, or express a Christian virtue parents want to develop in their child. Please take choosing your child's 'Baptismal Saints Name' seriously. If you need some help check out <http://saints.sqpn.com> on the web. Under 'Groups and Lists' on the right hand side you will find lists by 'Alphabet', 'Confirmation Names' (includes Baptism Names), 'Calendar' (you can check which Saint shares your child's birthday or baptism day, and 'Patron Saints'. Do not use other sites as many are unreliable and list Saints not recognised by the Church. The Baptismal Saints Name must be recorded on the application form and during the Baptism Ceremony parents will be asked: *"What Baptismal Saint's name have you given your child?"*

Dates and Time

Baptism is never a private ceremony as it celebrates our public incorporation into the Community of Faith - into the Church - the Body of Christ. In this parish baptisms are celebrated at:

- **St. Mary's** at 12 Noon on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of each month.
- **Holy Eucharist** at 12 Noon on the 2nd Sunday of each month.
- **2017 Dates not available** January 1, April 16, June 18

Sponsors (Godparents)

One Sponsor (Godparent) is sufficient though there may be two, a Godfather and a Godmother.

- Sponsors must be "Catholics who have been confirmed and have received the blessed Eucharist, and who lives the life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken." [Canon 874.3]
- Sponsors must be at least 16 years of age and cannot be the child's parent.
- A baptised non-catholic who belongs to another Christian Church may act as a witness in addition to having a catholic sponsor.
- An unbaptised person cannot be a sponsor or witness because sponsors and witnesses (Godparents) must renew their own baptismal promises as a part of the baptism ceremony.

For Sponsors (Godparents):

Sponsors have a very special role in your child's baptism and should be comfortable with the following intention:

"It is my intention, with God's help, to provide good example and encouragement to this child and accordingly I agree to act as a Godparent to him/her, and by God's help to encourage him/her to learn to worship God, to pray to God, to put his/her faith and trust in God and take his/her place in the ongoing life and regular worship of the Church."

Preparations Part 1:

- Choose a 'Baptismal Saints Name' for your child.
- Choose your child's Sponsors (Godparents) with care - remember they must be baptised.
- Fill out and return the application form to the parish office.
- Before the Baptism regularly bring your child to Mass so that as a family you can better be a part of the parish family your child is about to join in Baptism.
- If your child is not a new born child and is capable of real and active awareness of their surrounds it is vital that they are brought to Mass regularly before the baptism so that they become comfortable with the church, its surrounds and

being among strangers. As can happen with those aged about three and above, for whom the church can be a foreign and unfamiliar place, they can very vocally and physically reject being baptised and your child's baptism may have to be postponed until they are accepting of the ceremony and ritual they must undergo in Baptism. Such a situation can lead to great embarrassment and heart ache for all concerned, including for the priest who will not impose or physically force baptism on an unwilling child.

Preparations Part 2:

- Parents are expected to attend a short baptism preparation meeting prior to their child's baptism. The meetings take place each month, on the dates listed below, in St. Mary's Church (for baptisms both at Holy Eucharist and St. Mary's). The meetings begin at 7.30pm and last for about 45 minutes: entry to church is via the side porch facing the presbytery (the front doors will normally be locked).
- The preparation meeting dates for 2017 are as follows:

Jan Wed 25	Feb Wed 22	March Wed 29	April Wed 19
May Wed 31	June Wed 28	July Wed 26	Aug Wed 30
Sept Wed 20	Oct Wed 25	Nov Wed 29	Dec Wed 27

Preparations Part 3:

- Bring a *white garment. This may be a family baptismal robe or a specially made robe or stole. This robe is put on the newly baptised child after baptism by one of the sponsors.
- Bring a *Baptismal Candle of your own choice. It will be lit by the father of the child after the moment of baptism.
- It is also customary to bring an offering to the church in the envelope provided.
- *Baptismal stoles and candles are available for sale at the preparation meetings.

PLEASE NOTE - SCHOOL ENROLMENTS:

If you are wanting baptism for your child only to gain entry into a Catholic School then you need to seriously question your motives. Baptism is a serious act - one of uniting your child forever with Christ and with his Church - the worshipping community of faith - of which the baptised becomes an integral part. It is not a passport to a Catholic Education.

Parents are reminded that just because your child is baptised in this particular church it is in no way an automatic entry into our parish school. The church or place where your child is baptised has no bearing within our school enrolment policy.

Entry to our parish school is based on the boundary or zone of our parish and parishioners or families who live outside the parish boundary will always be referred to the parish school in which zone or parish they reside. Any concerns about this issue need to be taken up with the School Principal.

Application for Baptism

[PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND USE BLOCK LETTERS]

Details of CHILD to be baptised:

Full Name of Child _____

Baptismal Saints Name **St.** _____

Date of Birth _____/_____/_____

Birthplace (City/Town) _____

Details of PARENTS

Father's name in full _____

Religion: _____ Are you Baptised? _____ Confirmed? _____

Mother's **MAIDEN NAME** in full _____

Religion: _____ Are you Baptised? _____ Confirmed? _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Name of your Parish Church _____

Details of SPONSOR(S)

At least one sponsor must be a Catholic

who has also been Confirmed and receives Holy Communion

All Sponsors and Witnesses (Godparents)

must be

- baptized,
- belong to a Christian Church
- and practise their Faith.

1: Name in full _____

Religion: _____

Name of Church & Parish where Baptised _____

Name of Church & Parish where Confirmed? _____

2: Name in full _____

Religion: _____

Name of Church & Parish where Baptised _____

Name of Church & Parish where Confirmed? _____

Date of PREPARATION MEETING YOU WILL ATTEND _____

Place, Date and Time of BAPTISM

Church _____

Date _____

Time _____

Office Use ONLY

Celebrant _____ Certificate Completed ___ Entered in Register ___