

# Sacrament of Baptism



## Baptism

The Catholic Parishes of St Brigid's Mordialloc and St Louis de Montfort's Aspendale welcome families living in our Parish who wish to have a child baptised. We invite you to read the following information which will help answer some questions you may have.

### The Sacrament of Baptism

Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (*vitae spiritualis ianua*), and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as children of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: "Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word."

*Catechism of the Catholic Church 1213*

### Baptism Celebrations

Baptisms are celebrated in our Parish on set dates each month. As Baptism is the first sacrament of initiation, it takes place in front of a community – during the Saturday 6pm Vigil Mass at St Louis' or the Sunday 11am Mass at St Brigid's. In addition, a Baptismal Service, for up to six families is held once a month on Sunday at 12.30 pm at both St Louis' and St Brigid's. Six weeks minimum notice is required for baptism bookings.

### Baptismal Programme

You will be asked to attend a **Baptism Preparation Meeting** which provides the opportunity to meet other parishioners and families with children for baptism and you will receive a baptism pack that will contain the information that you require. Parents will be asked to present their child for a **pre-baptism blessing** at a nominated Mass two weeks prior to the baptism ceremony.

### Godparents

The godparents' role is to share the responsibility with the parents in supporting the child in their faith development. For this reason, at least one of the godparents must be a fully confirmed Catholic. Provision is made for further support by non-Catholics through the role of Witnesses of Faith who stand with the godparents.

### Baptismal Candle and Stole

The Parish can provide the baptismal candle and stole at a very reasonable price. An administration fee of \$20 covers the cost of the Baptism Preparation. Families are also encouraged to make a thanksgiving donation to the priest or deacon on the day of the baptism.