

**St. Martin de Porres Parish
Avondale Heights**

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**Celebrating Your
Child's Baptism
at
St Martin De Porres**

Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are reborn in Jesus Christ which enables us to receive God's love and the promise of eternal life. As the Sacrament of Baptism is such an important event in the life of your family and Parish, it is important to be prepared properly. So as to ensure a successful celebration we wish to offer the following points.

Baptism Preparation Meeting

As parents of your child you are required to attend a Preparation Meeting on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. It is best if you have your child/ren looked after that night while you attend the meeting. Your child's Godparents are also invited to attend. It will be held in the Parish Pastoral Centre (as you come through the traffic lights turn to the right and park in the front school car park, walk to the red brick building in the car park). The duration is about 1 – 1½ hours.

If you have had your previous child/ren Baptised at St Martin's and are familiar with the procedure you only need to attend the first part of the meeting to have your paperwork checked and submitted, purchase a stole/candle and have any questions answered. You are welcome to stay for the second half of the meeting if you so desire.

Items to bring to meeting

Birth Certificate – to be sighted by a Baptism Team member

Photo of your baby to display in the foyer of the church around 10 x 15 cm (to fit on A4 paper)

Completed Baptism Certificate details form

Permission letter

If you belong to a Parish other than St Martin de Porres, a Letter of Permission from your Parish Priest will need to be obtained to have your child Baptised outside your own parish. Please bring this letter along with the completed Baptism Information form with you to the meeting.

Candles and Baptismal Stoles

You may wish to buy and decorate your own candle and make the baby's Baptismal stole to place around the baby's shoulders, however these items may be purchased on the night of the meeting cost of the candles vary from \$5 to \$23 and stoles are \$17 each.

Offering

Donation is \$150 per family i.e. \$75 for the use of the church and \$75 for the priest or deacon celebrating the baptism.

Godparents

One Godparent must be a baptised and confirmed Catholic over 16 years of age and cannot be the child's parent. A baptised non-catholic belonging to another Christian Church may act as a witness in addition to one catholic. An unbaptised person cannot be godparent or witness as they must renew their own baptismal promises as a part of the baptism ceremony.

Welcome Mass

After the meeting and prior to the Baptism, your baby needs to be welcomed at any of our weekend Masses. Please choose from:

Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

Sunday 8:00am; 9:30am and 11:15am (Italian)

Godstart Programme

This is a venture that is becoming very popular in the church of Melbourne and as you and your baby are important members of the Parish, the Baptismal Preparation Team would like to keep in touch with you over the next few years with Birthday prayer cards, little modern paperback prayer booklets, birthday meetings etc. The printing costs of this programme are considerable, so we ask that the godparents pay \$15 towards the cost at the preparation meeting which can be part of their contribution to the Baptism. There is no obligation to join in this programme, however it is a reminder of your child's important day and continues up until the age of 5 years.

Baptisms

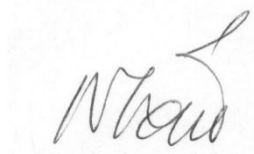
Ceremonies are celebrated on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at 12:30pm or at any of our weekend Masses listed below:

Saturday Vigil 6:00pm

Sunday 8:00am; 9:30am and 11:15am (Italian)

We hope that these points may help you to prepare carefully for Baptism and that the day itself may remain always in your mind as a Grace-filled occasion.

Yours sincerely,



Fr. Nhân Le
Parish Priest



