

# Sacrament of Baptism



We are very happy to welcome you for the baptism of your child. This is an important event for your family and for the parish community which celebrates the Sacrament of Baptism in the name of the Church. Through baptism your child will be given a share in the life of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and become a member of the Church.

If you are not a parishioner of St James The Great or St Joan of Arc we strongly recommend that you consider having your child baptized in your parish as this is an important step for you as a family to join in your local parish life. If you are unable to arrange for the baptism in your local parish you will need to provide us with a letter of permission from your local parish priest.

## **Presentation**

At the presentation Mass your child will be welcomed into the parish community. You will be presented with a candle and white stole to be used at the baptism. The presentation Masses are at 11am at St Joan of Arc Church and 9am at St James Church on the nominated Sundays.

## **Preparation**

If this is your first child to be baptized you will need to attend a preparation session prior to the baptism. The baptism preparation session will be arranged with our Pastoral Associate.

## **Godparents/Sponsors**

Godparents are required to be over the age of 16 and to be baptized believing Christians. The Catholic Church asks that at least one of the Godparents be Catholic. This is necessary as Godparents will make important promises, together with the parents, on behalf of the child. It is not appropriate to have as a Godparent someone who feels unable to say the Christian Creed with the family.

## **Enrolment Forms**

We ask you to complete the baptism enrolment form and return it to us as soon as possible. Following receipt of your form we will telephone you to confirm the details. Forms are available from St Joan of Arc Parish on 9593 1703 or email [Brighton@cam.org.au](mailto:Brighton@cam.org.au)

## **Baptism Offering**

It is customary to make an offering for the support of the parish and clergy. The \$120 offering will also cover the cost of the white stole and baptism candle. Please make your payment at the time of booking.



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## St James The Great & St Joan of Arc Parishes

<b>2019</b>		
<b>Church</b>	<b>Presentation</b> 9am Mass at St James 11am Mass at St Joan of Arc	<b>Baptism Ceremony</b> 12.30pm at St James 12.15pm at St Joan of Arc
<b>JAN: St Joan of Arc</b>	<b>20 Jan</b>	<b>27 Jan</b>
<b>FEB: St Joan of Arc</b>	<b>3 Feb</b>	<b>24 Feb</b>
<b>MAR: St James</b>	<b>3 Mar</b>	<b>31 Mar</b>
<b>APR: St Joan of Arc</b>	<b>7 April</b>	<b>14 April</b>
<b>MAY: St Joan of Arc</b>	<b>19 May</b>	<b>26 May</b>
<b>JUNE: St James</b>	<b>2 June</b>	<b>30 June</b>
<b>JULY: St Joan of Arc</b>	<b>7 July</b>	<b>28 July</b>
<b>AUG: St James</b>	<b>4 Aug</b>	<b>25 Aug</b>
<b>SEPT: St Joan of Arc</b>	<b>8 Sept</b>	<b>15 Sept</b>
<b>OCT: St James</b>	<b>13 Oct</b>	<b>27 Oct</b>
<b>NOV: St Joan of Arc</b>	<b>3 Nov</b>	<b>24 Nov</b>
<b>DEC: St Joan of Arc</b>	<b>1 Dec</b>	<b>15 Dec</b>

- ◆ Baptism numbers will be limited to 8 at St Joan of Arc and 6 at St James on each designated baptism Sunday.
- ◆ Private baptisms may be booked with a visiting priest with the permission of Fr Martin. Private baptisms may take place on available Sundays at 12.30pm.

## **SYMBOLS OF BAPTISM**

### **Water**



Water is the primary symbol of baptism. We are reminded of the life-giving benefits of water. Through baptism we are cleansed and given new life with Christ.

### **Lighted Candle**



The baptism candle is lit from the Easter paschal candle, a sign of the risen Christ– Light of the World. One of the Godparents will light the candle to symbolize the passing on of the light of faith. The parents & Godparents will help to keep the faith alive in the child's heart.

### **Anointing**



The original meaning of the word “Christ” is anointed one. Before baptism your child will be anointed on the chest with the oil of catechumens to protect & strengthen. During baptism the child is anointed on the head with the oil of chrism which symbolizes our union with Christ.

### **White Garment**



The baptismal garment is an expression of our new life with Christ. It is an outward sign of our Christian identity as Christ wore a white garment at the Transfiguration.