

# Monty & Eltham

The Catholic Parishes of  
St Francis Xavier & Our Lady Help of Christians

## Baptism Information

Families will be called to the font. Parents hold their child accompanied by Godparents. Family and Friends are welcome to gather around the baptismal font also. Water is a rich sign of purification and life, and **the pouring of water** symbolises new life and freedom in Christ.

Father will **make the sign of the cross** on your child's forehead. The cross is a symbol for Christians remembering that Jesus died on the cross for us all. Parents and godparents are asked to trace the sign of the cross, showing that the child belongs to Christ.

**Oil of Chrism** (mixture of olive oil and sweet smelling balsam) is rubbed on your child's head. It is a sign of sealing with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

A **white garment or stole** symbolises innocence and the new life of resurrection. A **white stole** is placed around the baby's neck by the godparents. We suggest you keep this stole and use again for your child's sacramental celebrations of First Eucharist and Confirmation.

**Candles** symbolise Christ – the light of the world and the baptismal candle reminds us that the light of Christ has entered the child's life. Godparents are called up to light the candle from the Easter candle during the ceremony.

**Baptismal Certificate** - you will be presented with the Baptismal Certificate as part of the ceremony. Please keep it in a safe place as it is required for enrolment into Catholic Schools and before receiving other sacraments.

### Baptism Offering

*Your offering allows our parish to continue our work in preparing families for Baptism, and supports our many forms of outreach.*

Normal Catholic practice is to make an offering on the occasions of baptisms and weddings (called 'stole fees'). At St. Francis Xavier, Montmorency and Our Lady Help of Christians, Eltham, the offering is \$100 or more - depending on what you can afford. This goes towards Ministry and Outreach in **both** parishes. For convenience and to cut administrative costs, you are able to make an electronic bank transfer to the church account using the following details:

<b>Account name:</b>	St Francis Xavier Parish General Account; OR	Eltham Catholic Church General Account
<b>BSB number:</b>	083 347	083 347
<b>Account number:</b>	492 552 214	659 360 346
<b>Reference:</b>	<b>Please enter your <u>surname</u>, the abbreviated word "<u>BAP</u>" and <u>date of baptism</u> to help us identify your payment.</b>	

If you would prefer to give cash, please place in an envelope and hand to the priest on the day.

### **A PARENT'S PRAYER** (from the Passionist Missions)

A parent's gift is to give life. But in the daily demands of feeding and forming, cleaning and cautioning, tending and teaching, their gift can get lost in the layers.

They need to remember their work begins with themselves.

To be attentive to others, they must listen to their own heart.

To care for others, they must take time for themselves.

To teach self-love to others, they must act lovingly towards their own body and their time.

If they find their own sparks, they will fan them in those around them.

If they free their own spirit, they will help others soar.

If they focus each moment by being wholly present, they will point the way to holiness and to God.

And if they truly live, they will give real life to the world, not only in their children's bodies, but in their souls.

*All: Lord, we need your help today. We want to care for those you've sent into our life, to help them develop the special gifts you've given them. But we also want to free them to follow their own paths and to bring their loving wisdom to the world. Help us ... to embrace them without clutching, to support them without suffocating, to correct them without crushing. And help us ... to live joyfully and playfully, ourselves, so they can see your life in us and find their way to you. Amen.*

