

Greetings from Surfers Paradise Catholic Parish. This information sheet should give you answers to many of your inquiries.

Checklist	✓
At least one Parent should be Baptised Catholic.	
You need to have at least one Catholic Godparent, (who has received baptism, confirmation, and first Holy Communion and who is 16 years of age or is over, and not a parent of the child).	
Firstly – please fill out and submit the online baptismal application form for your child. https://fs19.formsite.com/paulkelly/form15/index.html (please note that if you have filled out this form correctly, you should receive a “success” message and also an email back automatically confirming the receipt of the form. If you do not get that, you may not have submitted the form properly – also search for the message in your “spam or junk” folders).	
Let your guests and family members know the start time for the ceremony and the correct address for the church. (We have had people turn up to the wrong church as they mistook which church is hosting the baptism – (Normally it is Sacred Heart Church, Clear Island Waters, Qld, 4226). Starting on time is important.	
The Baptism Registration fee of \$130 can be paid any time before the Baptism day via direct debit. Complete Baptism Payment Here: https://www.bpoint.com.au/pay/catholicparishsurfersparadise?BillerCode=1999374 Secure Payment using BPOINT, Commonwealth Bank of Australia	
Send us a copy of your child’s Birth Certificate and at least one parent’s baptismal certificate.	
Fill out and send back the permission form signed by both parents of the child, and email us or post or drop it into the office (M-F 9-12 noon) (see a copy at the end of this document) (this third form is also essential)	
Read this document through and watch the video on baptism given to you on the link. https://flameoffaith.org.au/baptism/	
Baptismal Candle. Buy or design a baptismal candle and bring it with you to the ceremony (unwrapped of all packaging) and this will be used in the ceremony.	
Child in white clothing, (whether this is a baptismal outfit or a white shirt or white dress, etc). (Please note that the baptismal stole/scarf is provided to you by our church and is available for you at the ceremony in our parish)	
Be seated in the church early (At least fifteen minutes prior to the advertised start of the ceremony)	
Parents and godparents and family, please come in and take your seat in the pew at the front of the church which has your child’s name printed.	
Please respond to all the questions within the ceremony in a clear voice that can be heard easily by everyone.	



SURFERS PARADISE CATHOLIC PARISH

THE RITE OF BAPTISM

*Baptism is the first, and some might say the most important, of the seven Sacraments in the Catholic faith. It combines the **washing with water**, the **anointing with oils**, and the **blessings of the Holy Spirit** to accomplish the turning towards the light of God's path. As Christian parents, in choosing to have your child baptised, you are clearly saying that you wish your child to grow up as a member of this Christian community, experiencing God's love and sharing fully the community's faith and liturgical life. This is one of the richest blessings and prime responsibilities of Christian parents.*

The time set down for your Baptismal Ceremony is the time when the ceremony is scheduled to start, so please arrive a little earlier. When you and your family and friends arrive, please come into the church before the start time and take your seats right at the front of the church as directed by the welcomer

The name of your child will be on a reserved sign on one of the pews at the front of the church, to indicate your family's location. A welcomer or priest can assist you if you have any questions.

Welcome and Introduction

When all are assembled at the front of the Church, the Minister of Baptism addresses the community and welcomes and introduces the families by name. The Minister may then use these or similar words:

*Baptism Day is an important day because today we celebrate **the gifts of life, love and belonging; the gifts of family and faith**. It is very good that you, as family and friends, are here because it is through you that this child will first experience what it is to be loved by God. You are the people whose lives form the context in which this child will grow up. It is through your words that they will first hear the **Word of God**, it is in your faces that they will first see **God's face** and it is in your arms that they will first feel the **embrace of God**. As parents and family you share an enormous privilege in the life of this little one and by your presence here today you not only celebrate with the parents the gift of the birth of their child but you also pledge them your support and your encouragement as they begin fulfilling their responsibilities as Christian parents.*

The Naming

We would like **everyone to be heard in their responses** to the important questions in the ceremony, so please announce the name of your child loudly and clearly. They are being welcomed into the family of Christ - our family as well as your family.

Parents and godparents are asked to give responses to questions asked of them by the Minister. It is really important that you reply to the questions in a **strong audible voice**. The responses will be, for example **“Baptism”, “I do”, “I am”, “We are”, “It is”**.

Parents, you have an enormous privilege in the naming of your child. When you name your child, you strengthen your bonds with them. In reality, you are saying, “You belong to us and we belong to you”. We will then ask for the names(s) you have chosen.

Parents: (responding in turn) **We have chosen to call our child (name).**

Minister: What do you ask of God's Church for (name)?

Parents: **Baptism.**

Commitment of Parents

The Minister will then remind the parents of the commitment they are making. He will then ask, “Do you clearly understand and accept this responsibility?”

Parents: **We do.**

Introduction of Godparents

The Godparents are asked to be Christian, with at least one Catholic, so that they are able to help provide Spiritual Direction for your child and his family throughout his or her life. This role is an important one, both a **privilege** and a **responsibility**. Each child needs as many people as possible to help it on their way. However, two or four godparents are usually the maximum that we would recommend for this ceremony. It is good to involve people other

than grandparents in this role to help extend the circle of support for the child and family.

The minister will then ask the Godparents “Will you support the parents in their duty as Christian parents....”

Godparents respond: **We will**

Liturgy of the Word and Homily

The Minister will then give one or more readings from the holy Gospel - for example, from the Gospel according to Mark 10.13-16.

(Let the little children come to me, says the Lord).

At the end of the reading the Minister will say: Minister: “The Gospel of the Lord.”

All: Praise to Lord Jesus Christ

These readings come from the Bible - the books of the Old Testament and the New Testament. “Biblios” in Latin refers to a collection of books, in this case expressing God's word. The gospel means the good news of Jesus our Saviour.

(After the reading, the Minister gives a short homily- speaking about the meaning of baptism as shown by the reading we have just listened to).

The Minister may then pray for the **Intercession of the Saints**

The Saints who have given us witness of how to live Christian lives include Mary and Joseph, the human parents of Jesus himself, John who baptised him, the Gospel writers and the Apostles who spread his word, as well as early Christian martyrs and thinkers. When the minister says a saints name, we all respond:



ALL: "Pray for us!"

Anointing before Baptism

During Baptism your child may be anointed on the chest. (Older children and adults are anointed on the forehead).

This is ordinary **olive oil** that has been specially blessed by the Bishop at an annual ceremony just before Easter. The oil is the symbol of **preparing the child for Christian living, strengthening them for the challenges of living a good Christian life**, and protecting them from anything harmful in life.

Just as an athlete is rubbed with oil to prepare their muscles for the race, this oil is used to strengthen and prepare the child to live a good Christian life. The oil also symbolises protection. Just as it is hard to grab hold of someone who has oil rubbed on them, they slip away from another's grip, so do we pray that this child will be protected from harm and temptation. Nothing bad in life can grab hold of them; it will just slip away.

The Minister anoints this child with the **Oil of Salvation**.

Blessing of water

The Minister then blesses the water to be used for Baptism.

Water is the main symbol of Baptism. Water represents **washing clean, rebirth, and renewal**. Water is a perfect symbol. It contains so many meanings - health and life, danger and threat, power, and gentleness, washing and renewing. It is a wonderful way of showing that by following Jesus we want to immerse or plunge ourselves entirely into Jesus as a way of life and truth and joy.



Profession of Faith

The Minister will then ask Parents and Godparents to affirm the faith of the Church; based on the Apostles' Creed

When each question is asked by the minister, we respond clearly and loudly. **"I do."**

Minister: Do you reject Satan? **All: I do.**

Minister: And all his works? **All: I do.**

Minister: And all his empty promises? **All: I do.**

Minister: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

All: I do.

Minister: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

All: I do.

Minister: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

All: I do.

Minister: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Christian family. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Minister will then ask the Parents and Godparents. "Is it your will that your child be Baptised into the faith of the church which we have all professed with you?"

All: It is !

Baptism

Baptism is a word that literally means “to plunge” - and we believe that Baptism is not just a sign of following Jesus. Baptism actually connects us to Jesus forever, and unites us with him and makes us one with his life and with the life of all other believers in Jesus.

The Minister will then use the blessed water to baptise your child.

The water is poured three times over the baby's head. Three, is the number of the Trinity of God who is the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Minister:

(Name) I baptise you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit



Oil of Chrism

The Minister will then anoint the child with the **Oil of Chrism**, and explains its significance.

This oil is sacred. It has been used throughout the centuries of our religious tradition to anoint people as priests, prophets and royal people. We call it “**CHRISM**”, a word that means “**The anointed**”. It is from this word that the name **Christ** comes. Christ is the anointed one, the anointed King of the universe, the Anointed son of God.

The minister anoints your child as priest in the hope that as they grow and mature they might serve God’s family.

*And the minister **anoints them prophet** in the hope that, as they grow and mature, they might proclaim the Good News by the way they live.*

*And **the child is anointed as a royal person**, because through Baptism they are assured a place as a member of the royal family of God’s Kingdom.*

The Minister anoints the child on the crown of the head

Baptismal Garments

The Minister will now explain the significance of Baptism and of the white Baptismal Garments.

The white baptismal garment or stole is taken from the Bible reading which says, “When you were baptised, it was as though you had put on Christ in the same way you put on new clothes”.

The white baptismal garment, or stole, represents spiritual cleanliness and purity of life. As baptised followers of Jesus, we have been washed clean and purified by Christ, and we are expected to keep our lives clean and pure. The white garment is a symbol reminding us of how we want to keep ourselves holy the way a person keeps a white garment nice and clean.

The Baptism stole is slipped around the child’s shoulders. (Please note that here in Surfers Paradise Parish - we provide the baptismal stole here for baptisms in this parish).

Please also ensure that your child is also dressed in something white, the Baptismal gown, or a white shirt or a dress. The reason for this white garment is similar to the meaning of



the Bible reading above. This is a very important and ancient symbol of Baptism.

Light:

Part of the ceremony is the **presentation of a Baptismal Candle**. A godparent, family member, friend or parent can make or buy a special Baptismal Candle that is larger and more commemorative. Alternatively, the candle may be purchased from the church or online from Christian suppliers.

We would appreciate it if you have, prior to the ceremony, **unwrapped the cellophane and packaging around the candle, prior to the ceremony** and have it ready for use. Candles work best if you briefly light them first, so that they are prepared for the Baptism day.

We believe that Jesus is the light of the world. Jesus is the light who shows us the way and helps us in life, especially when we feel we are in darkness or difficulty or temptation or confusion. Every Easter a very large candle is blessed called the Easter candle or Paschal candle (a word meaning Passover). Jesus is the Passover lamb who is sacrificed to save us from sin. This candle represents Jesus who is a light to all in darkness.

When a child is baptised, they are said to be **enlightened by Christ** and they have become a **child of the light**. A Baptismal Candle is lit from this Easter Pascal candle and is presented to the family as a sign that this newly baptised person has received the light of Jesus and now must be a light of Christ to all they meet, in how they live their lives, and how they behave. Just as a big light does not lose any of its brightness or power by having other candles lit from it, so we become a carrier of Christ's light without taking anything from the greatness of the Jesus who is our true light and who enlightens and guides us all.



The Minister will then invite the Godparents to **light the Baptismal Candle** from the Easter Pascal Candle

The Lord's Prayer

When asked, Jesus provided this example (Matthew 6: 9 as a way to pray to God. In a sense, it is truly a summary of the whole Gospel.

There is a feeling of solidarity in knowing that Christians around the globe are praying together in this way and that these words always unite us in our faith in God.

Please familiarise yourselves and your family with the words of the **Lord's Prayer** so that you can say it clearly and proudly on the day of the christening, as you may not have the words in front of you at the time of the service.

Minister invites the assembly to stand.

Minister: This baptism ritual has been about family and belonging. So let us together pray the prayer that unites all Christian families wherever they may be. That prayer we know as the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come,

Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

**And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

And lead us not into temptation: but deliver us from evil.

(For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever). Amen



Final Blessing

The **Sign of the Cross** is one of the oldest and simplest prayers in the Christian church. It

recognises our faith in the Trinity and it goes like this:

“In the name of the father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, amen”

Whilst these words are said **the hands form the cross, pointing first to the forehead, then to our chest and then to each shoulder to complete the Cross.**

Teaching children this simple prayer from an early age is a practice they can use throughout their lives.

The Minister will then give a final blessing, finishing with,

Minister: May almighty God bless you, in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.



Presentation of Baptismal Certificate

The Minister will then present you with your child's Baptismal Certificate.

We present you with a beautiful **Baptismal Certificate** at the end of the Baptism. This certificate is an important **record of the Baptism**. Please keep this certificate safe, preferably with other important records such as Birth Certificates and the like. **The certificate will be needed at important moments in life, such as enrolment into Catholic schools, participation in sacramental programs like Confirmation, First Holy Communion and Reconciliation. It is also needed later when preparing for Marriage.** Although we do keep the Baptismal details in the Baptismal Register at the church it is always easier if you have kept the certificates for ease of information. Without it, people sometimes forget where and when the Baptism occurred and that makes it difficult to find the location of the parish, and church in order to search for the necessary details.

Into the Future!

We welcome you to take your rightful place as members of our Christian community. God bless you as you take this next important step in your own and your child's Faith Journey. By Baptism, a child has a right and a duty to be given the fullness of their Catholic teaching.

This includes contact with the **Catholic Community and Sunday Mass**.



As parents you have asked to have your child baptised in the Catholic faith. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of bringing up your child in the normal practice of that faith, **which begins with prayer, the word of God, such as Bible stories, and then eventually, Worship and Sacraments as regular features of the life of your child and hopefully of your family.**

We would love to see you at any of a wide range of Mass times across the various churches in our parish, please visit our website for information -

surfersparadiseparish.com.au

(<http://surfersparadiseparish.com.au/>)

{Reconciliation times by appointment} –

Searching for Catholic answers or more information? Read our parish e-newsletters found on our website surfersparadiseparish.com.au or contact the Parish Office, to find out what is on each week.

Parental duties to their Baptised children

During the rite of baptism, after the parents request the sacrament of baptism for their child, the priest states, “You are accepting the responsibility of training your child in the practice of

the faith.” Then, before the pouring of water, the instruction to the parents is repeated: “Make it your constant care to bring your child up in the practice of the faith.”

To raise one’s child in the Catholic faith may be a responsibility, duty or obligation, but it really is a privilege, joy and honor. Our faith is our single greatest treasure, and to pass on the gift of faith is the greatest gift parents could ever give their child.

This responsibility flows from the understanding of who is the ultimate owner of the child. Most parents realize that their newborn child is a miracle. God is the creator who gives life and forms the child in the mother’s womb (Ps 139:13). God is the original parent and owner of the child, while the mother and father are biological stepparents and have the child on loan from God. In the Jewish tradition, children are consecrated to God (Lk 2:23), and in the Christian tradition, they are Baptised.

The offering (Lk 2:24) recognizes God as the author and giver of life, and it serves as the parents’ request to keep the child. God accepts the offering, but God has terms and conditions for the parents: “You are to raise your child on my behalf; to teach your child to know, love and serve me; and to prepare your child to accept my plan for his or her life.”

God is love, and one of the parents’ most important duties is to teach their child about the love of God. This is not done with a lesson in a book or a video, but by example in the genuine love that the parents have for each other, and by experience of the love the parents have for their child.

The parents are the leaders of the house church, the basic unit and foundation of the Church, and their full, active and conscious practice of their faith is an ongoing lesson on how to be a dynamic Catholic. The child learns the faith through assimilation. Because the parents love God, the child learns to love God. Because the parents pray each day, the child learns to pray. Because the parents go to Mass each Sunday, the child learns the importance of going to Mass, the value of communal liturgical prayer and how to behave in church. And because the parents practice the virtues in their daily living, the child learns how to live a Christian lifestyle.

Parents teach their children to pray. This should not begin in second grade as part of their preparation for the sacraments, but as the child learns how to talk. When a child learns to say mommy and daddy, colors and numbers, it is time to learn the Sign of the Cross and meal prayers. When a child is old enough to converse with mom and dad, the child is old enough to say morning and night prayers, and when a child is old enough to memorize a home address or telephone number, the child is old enough to memorize the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be.

Parents should have a children’s Bible and other spiritual books and videos to teach their child about Jesus and the Gospel, the great people in Scripture and Bible stories. Parents can enroll their children in religious education programs beginning with Children’s Liturgy of the Word. The parents’ pledge at baptism also includes ensuring that their child completes his or her sacraments through the reception of reconciliation, first Eucharist and confirmation.

GODPARENTS

THE ROLE OF THE GODPARENT

The principal responsibility of a godparent is to give witness to the Catholic faith by his/her words and actions. The role is, together with the parents, to present the child for baptism, and to help this child to live a Christian life befitting the Baptised and faithfully to fulfill the duties inherent in baptism.

When called upon to profess the Catholic faith on behalf of the infant, the godparent must believe in what he/she is professing.

Is the godparent expected to be someone who attends church every Sunday? It makes sense if they do. After all, you are asking this person to assist you in bringing up your child in the Catholic faith. The church reasonably expects parents and godparents to help the child “lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism.”

Baptism depends on the faith of the Church, expressed by parents and godparents. Therefore, it is absolutely necessary that they live what they say they believe.

After the baptism, the godparent's role really begins, and not just in the sense of sending presents at birthdays and Christmas!

Ideally, a godparent will continue to pray for their godchild; keep in touch with them and their family; give a present or a card at the baptism anniversary and each sacramental milestone in the life of the godchild; lead the child by their example towards a Christian way of life; be supportive of the godchild's parents in their role as Christian parents and primary educators of their child.

THE HISTORY OF GODPARENTS

Godparents are a tradition in the Sacrament of Baptism that goes back as far as the early days of the Catholic Church.

In those days, conversions came in two ways. In the first instance, a friend or someone appointed by the Church received whole families into the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism after they are instructed and prepared.

In the second instance, individuals were instructed and prepared by a friend or someone appointed by the Church. During those days, the first four centuries, the Catholic Church was under intense persecution by the Roman Empire.

To avoid persecution and the infiltration of pagans into the Church, every person received into the Church was required to have a sponsor. This sponsor performed two roles. First of all, he protected the Church by authenticating the sincerity of the convert. Secondly, as a catechist, he supported the person as a candidate into the Church.

During the first centuries, emphasis was placed on the baptism of adults. In consideration of the inability of an infant to speak for himself or herself, more than ever, it became necessary to appoint a godparent who would make the Profession of Faith in the child's name. This same person would also be responsible for instructing the child in the faith, as if adopted by the Christian parents to protect the faith of their child.



FAMILY LAW MATTERS:

CHILD’S FULL NAME:

FATHERS NAME: _____

MOTHERS NAME: _____

We require a copy of the BIRTH CERTIFICATE of any child to be Baptised. A copy of any Court Orders concerning residence arrangements for the candidate, time spent by the candidate with either parent, or parenting issues must be supplied with this Enrolment Form.

Are there any such Orders?

Yes / No (please circle)

If “yes,” please see below.

Has a copy of every such Order been attached to this form?

...Yes / No (please circle)

I hereby give my consent for the Candidate to be admitted to the Sacrament of Baptism in the Catholic Church.

Father’s Signature:Date:.....

Mother’s Signature:.....Date:.....