



**OUR LADY IMMACULATE CHURCH**

*Baptism*



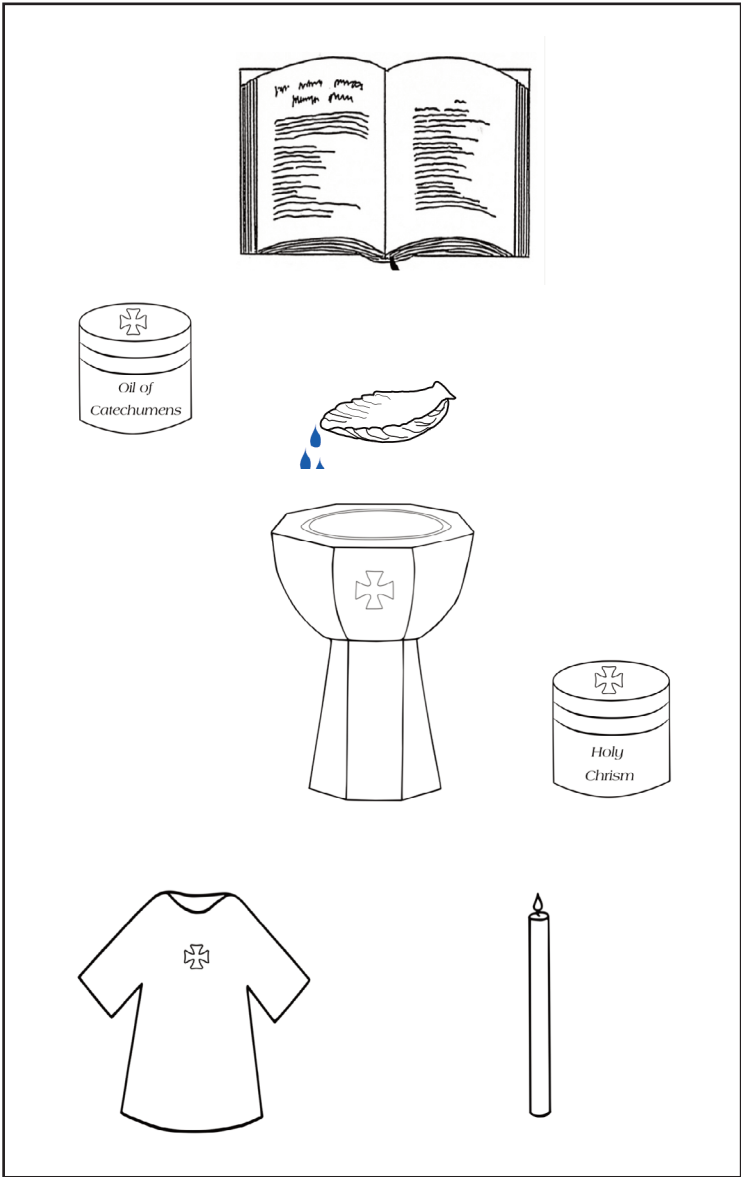
**First, ask yourselves:**

***“Why do I want my child to be baptised?”***



Baptism is a precious gift given by God  
through the Church.

A gift that will last forever,  
a gift of **New Life**,  
the eternal Life of the risen Christ.



## Practicalities

### ***Before Baptism***

Please make sure that you contact the parish well in advance of the date you wish to have your child baptised.

Tel. 020 8399 9550 or e-mail: [tolworth@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:tolworth@rcaos.org.uk)

Once you have spoken to the priest and presented the child's birth certificate, you will have to fill in a form.

Then you will need to attend a Preparation Course. Within a couple of weeks (or so, depending on the time of year,) you will receive an email to arrange dates and times for the sessions.

### ***Pre-Baptism course***

– *For a child under 7 years old?*

- There are at least three sessions for parents, depending on the parents' practice of their faith, their understanding of the Sacrament and the commitment involved.
- Godparents are encouraged to attend at least one of the meetings if they can.
- **The course must be taken seriously.** You will be given documents to study after each session and questioned about them before moving on to the next session. After the course, you will be provided with a Course Certificate

- ***From the age of 7***, classes are organised by the Parish. Please discuss this with the Parish Priest.

## **Location**

Usually courses take place via Zoom or, if required, in the Old Chapel. These arrangements should make it possible for both parents to participate in the course.

Children are normally baptised in their own parish. Parents who wish to have their baby baptised in another parish should discuss this with their own Parish Priest as well as the Priest in the Parish where the baptism is to take place.

## **Time**

Baptism is by arrangement. It generally takes place on a Saturday or a Sunday.

## **What to bring on the Baptism day:**

- A candle, which can be bought at the parish office
- A white garment, shawl or cloth to wrap the baby immediately after it has been baptised, so don't leave it at home!

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## ***Useful questions and answers:***

### ***How soon should I have my child baptised?***

Children are usually baptised within the first weeks after birth. You are very welcome to come and arrange a date for the Baptism before the child is born. The priest will then also be able to give the blessing for an expectant mother and pray for the safe delivery of the child.

### ***How do I arrange a Baptism for an older Child?***

If children are over the age of seven they will need some instruction before they can be baptised. Please contact the Parish Priest for details. Arrangements for Baptism can be made when the instruction is nearing completion.

### ***I am not married. Can my child be baptised?***

Yes, children may be baptised so long as there is a well-founded hope that they will be brought up in the practice of the Catholic faith. If you have any questions about marriage in the Catholic Church, please ask the priest because there are often misunderstandings in this area.

### ***I do not live in the parish. Can I have my child baptised at Our Lady Immaculate church?***

Yes, if you regularly come to Mass here. If you are not coming to Mass, you need to decide which will be the Church you are going to start attending. It will usually be more appropriate (and more convenient) for you to start going to Mass at your local parish and to arrange the Baptism there.

### ***How many Godparents should we have?***

The Church's Canon Law states that there should be one or two Godparents. If there are two, they should be a Godfather and a Godmother.

### ***Who can be Godparents?***

Godparents should be Catholics over 16 years of age who themselves regularly come to Mass and have been confirmed.

***Neither I nor my spouse are Catholic. Can our child(ren) be baptised Catholics?***

Only if one of the parents decides to become a Catholic themselves. This is a process which involves prayer, instruction and sharing in the life of the Catholic community over several months at least. The most appropriate conclusion to this process is for the family to be baptised together. Please ask the Parish Priest for further details.

***Are there places in the Catholic school?***

Catholic schools are often over-subscribed. Baptism alone will not be any guarantee of a place. First priority is always given to those who come regularly to Mass.

***I had a child baptised but I never got a Baptism certificate. How can I get one?***

Every parish keeps a Baptism register in its permanent archive. A certificate can always be provided for you by the parish where your child was baptised. The easiest way to get one is to send a note to the Parish Priest. Give the child's full name, date of birth and date of Baptism and enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

***Can adults be baptised?***

Yes, an adult will be baptised as part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Please see the section under "Groups".

## The course

There are at least three sessions depending on the parents' practice of their faith, their understanding of the Sacrament and the commitment involved.

Godparents are encouraged to attend at least one of the meetings when possible.

You will be given documents to study after each session and questioned about them before moving on to the next session.

**In Session 1**, you will:

- deepen your understanding of what a Sacrament is,
- consider the various effects of Baptism,
- reflect on the meaning of the gestures.

**In Session 2**, you will study

- the order of service of the Holy Mass
- and its connection with the Sacrament of Baptism.

**In Session 3**, presented by the Parish Priest, you will

- go through the Rite of Baptism, step by step,
- consider the commitment it involves,
- decide on how you will continue this journey in faith with your family



## Gospel Readings to reflect on

### John 3:3-6

#### Jesus teaches Nicodemus

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

"How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

Jesus answered, "Truly I tell you, no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

### Matthew 28:18-20

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember I am with you always, to the very end of the age".

## Mark 1:9-11

### The Baptism of Jesus

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

## Mark 10:13-16

### The Little Children and Jesus

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not welcome the Kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it." And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

*"The rediscovery of the value of one's own Baptism is at the root of every Christian's missionary commitment."*

Pope Benedict

