BAPTISM INFORMATION FORM
(To be given to the priest or parish secretary - please print clearly)

FULL NAME OF CHILD ……...

DATE OF BIRTH ……..

FULL NAME OF MOTHER ……..
Catholic ( ) Other ( )

MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER …….

FULL NAME OF FATHER …….
Catholic ( ) Other ( )

ADDRESS OF PARENTS ……...

TELEPHONE NUMBER …….

EMAIL ADDRESS ……..

NAME OF GODPARENTS
(1) ……...…..……. **Catholic Y/N**

(2) …….. **Catholic Y/N**

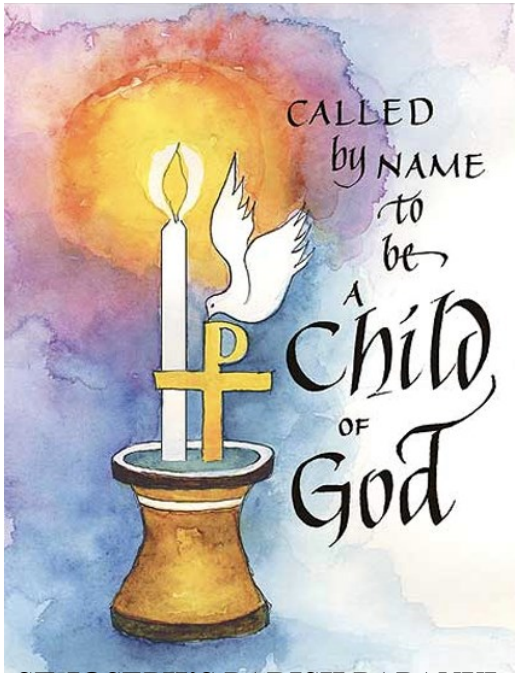
Agreed date for baptism preparation class ……..…….

Proposed date for celebration of baptism ...……...

PARISH CONTACT DETAILS

P O Box 5014 Christchurch 8542
Telephone 352-9275
Email pap.bish.rc@xtra.co.nz
Website www.stjosephspapanui.org.nz

BAPTISM



ST JOSEPH'S PARISH PAPANUI

Why does the Church baptise children?

From the very beginning, the Church has always baptised children as well as adults. Our Lord said: "Unless a person is reborn in water and the Holy Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God."

This means that children should not be deprived of baptism. Children are precious to Jesus. He loves them dearly. He wants to save them by giving his blessings to them as they grow up in the spiritual family he began, the Church. We experience the Church and belong to the Church in our local parish. It is there that we gather to worship God and to learn together about the ways of God. So baptism takes place in our parish Church for it is there that the parish family gather.

Is "Christening" the same as "Baptism"?

The word "baptism" means washing or cleansing in water. It comes from the Greek language. In the Church, baptism does not mean just ordinary washing or bathing with water. It has a sacred meaning. Baptism always means the washing with water that has the spiritual meaning given to it by Jesus Christ, the Son of God. That is why it is also called ***CHRISTENING*** but more correctly it is called the ***Sacrament of BAPTISM.***

What is the spiritual meaning of Baptism?

When a child is baptised by the Church, Jesus baptises that child. He sends the Holy Spirit into that child. The Holy Spirit makes this child ***a child of God.*** No man or woman can do that. Only God can make someone his son or daughter. God does this in the sacrament of baptism, and that is why we should ensure that our children are baptised.

When is the right time to baptise my child?

Ordinarily, once baby has been born and you have settled back at home, you should make contact with the parish to see about baptism preparation (*see below*) and arranging the date of the baptism of your child (*see below*).

How do I prepare for the baptism of my child?

We hold a baptism preparation evening (7.30pm - 8.30pm) on the third Thursday of each month at St Joseph's Parish Centre. We ask the mother, father and the godparents to attend one of these evenings and arrange a baby-sitter for that hour. Usually the sacrament of baptism can only take place once the preparation evening has been attended.

When is the Sacrament of Baptism celebrated?

Baptism is normally celebrated in this parish on the <u>last</u> Sunday of each month <u>after</u> the 10.00am Sunday Mass (at 11.30am) at St Gregory's Church, while St Joseph's Church is closed. This means that sometimes there are several children to be baptised in the same ceremony. Occasionally the sacrament of baptism may be celebrated at another time but this is always the exception and needs to be approved by a priest of the parish.

What to bring?

It is traditional to wear a white garment for the sacrament of baptism. Families are asked to provide a baptismal candle for each child which will symbolise receiving the light of Christ.

How do I choose the godparents?

To be a child's god-parent is an honour and a privilege. It means that the parents want this person to be an influence for good on their child; to be a good example; to be a guardian and helper "in the things of the Holy Spirit and of faith". For this reason, a god-parent should be a Catholic over 16 years of age, who has received the Holy Eucharist and who lives a life of faith. A Christian person who is not Catholic may also be chosen, although they are what is known as a "Christian witness" and not a god-parent strictly speaking.

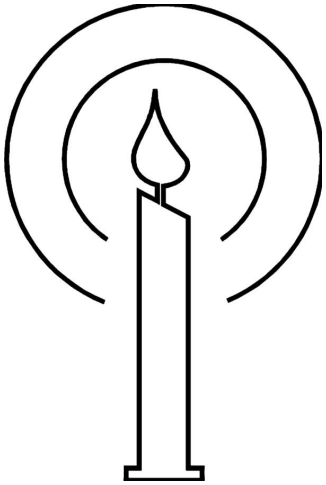
STEPS TO TAKE

Make contact with the parish secretary or one of the priests of our parish: Fr Rick Loughnan, Fr Alister Castillo, Fr Kevin Wei or Fr Edwin Colaco and give him or the secretary the completed form overleaf (or it can be emailed to the parish office.) Arrangements will be made to include you in the next baptism preparation class.

Note:

If you live outside our parish boundary and do not worship within St Joseph's Parish, you should have your child baptised in your local parish. We strongly encourage you to contact your own parish priest in the first instance.

If you were once a parishioner here and are coming back to St Joseph's Parish (e.g. for Christmas or holidays) and wish to have your child baptised, you should obtain a letter of permission from your parish for the baptism to be celebrated here. This should be forwarded to us in good time before you arrive.



It is customary to make an offering (called a "stole fee") after a baptism (as with a marriage or funeral). This is not retained by the priest personally but goes towards the upkeep of all the priests of the diocese. People often ask what is appropriate for a baptism - we suggest $55.00 and includes a baptism booklet, but this is an offering and is never insisted upon, as we do not "pay" for sacraments. No-one is ever refused the sacraments because of a difficulty in making an offering.