

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish, Coorparoo

BAPTISM

We welcome you and your family to Our Lady of Mt Carmel for the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism.

The Sacrament of Baptism is the foundation of the Sacramental life of the Church. In this sacrament, we are cleansed from sin and are reborn of water and the Holy Spirit, and are incorporated into the Body of Christ. We live out the promises we make at our Baptism by regularly practicing our faith. It is therefore important that you and the Baptismal sponsor(s) pray and reflect about the raising of your child in the Catholic faith. *The following information will answer questions frequently asked about Godparents.*

One Godparent must be a Baptised Catholic of at least 16 years of age, who has also received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Communion.

A Baptised non-Catholic from a Christian religion may be a *Christian Witness* at the Baptism, if accompanied by a Catholic Godparent. (Code of Canon Law 874.1)

Part A - Rite of Welcome: The first part of the Baptism Ceremony is the welcoming, naming, presentation, signing and anointing of your child. We do this during the normal Sunday Mass you attend, prior to the Baptism ceremony. This ceremony allows our community to formally acknowledge and welcome your child.

1. PRESENTATION AND NAMING OF THE CHILD

At the beginning of Mass, the Celebrant will invite you to bring your child forward to the altar. If Godparents and other family members are present, they are welcome to come forward with you.

The priest will ask: "What name have you given to your child?"

2. THE REQUEST FOR BAPTISM

The parents then make their request for the child to be Baptised by responding to the following question from the priest: "What do you ask of the Church for your child?" ... **Baptism**

3. THE SIGNING

The Priest formally welcomes your child into the Church community by tracing the Sign of the Cross on his or her forehead and he invites you to do the same. From this moment the child is a member of the Catholic Church.

4. ANOINTING WITH HOLY OIL

The Priest then anoints your child with Holy Oil praying that the Spirit of Christ will always be with your child to protect and strengthen the child on his or her journey through life. **PTO**

Part B - Completion of the Baptism Ceremony

The completion of the ceremony takes place at 10.00am on the Sunday for which you have booked.

1. READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE

The Baptism ceremony continues with readings from the Sacred Scripture.

2. PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

These prayers commend our needs and hopes to God.

3. BLESSING OF WATER

This prayer of blessing over the water we use in the Sacrament of Baptism recalls God's great gift of water which sustains all life. During the prayer we ask that this water will remind us God's grace sustains our Christian lives.

4. RENEWAL OF FAITH

The Parents and Godparents of the children to be Baptised are asked to profess their Faith. This profession is similar to the Creed we say at Mass, except that it is in question form. Parents and Godparents respond to each question, saying: **"I do!"**.

5. BAPTISM

The children are brought to the font and held over it by their parents. The priest pours the water over the child's head with the words: "I Baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." All respond: **"Amen!"**

6. ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

The ceremony of Baptism includes the consecration of the child as a follower of Christ. We use the Holy Oil called Chrism to anoint the child during this rite.

7. PRESENTATION OF THE WHITE GARMENT AND THE BAPTISMAL CANDLE

We present the child with symbols of the new life they have received in the Sacrament. The white garment is a symbol of all that is new and fresh.

We present the child with a Baptismal Candle. For the Christian person, Christ is our light as we make our journey through life. The candle is lit from the Easter Candle and entrusted to the parents and Godparents as a symbol of the new life of Christ present in their child.

The candle may be used again when your child celebrates Confirmation and it will be a link between their Baptism and Confirmation as Christians.

You will need to provide or decorate a candle for your child and provide a white garment, if so desired.

8. PRAYER OVER THE EARS AND MOUTH

This short prayer expresses the hope that your child will hear the Word of God and share it with others as they journey through life.

9. PRAYER AND BLESSING

The celebration concludes with a prayer and blessing on parents and all present.