

**R E Q U E S T
F O R B A P T I S M**

Parents

Mother's maiden name

Child's name

Child's DoB

Godparents

Address

Phone No. (H)

Phone No. (M)

E-mail address

Preferred date for Baptism

Date attending Preparation

Please return to

Parish Office

Our Lady of Lourdes RC Church, Hampton Court
Way,
Thames Ditton KT7 OLP

Dates for 2017

Preparation evenings

- **Wednesday 11th January**
- **Wednesday 1st February**
- **Wednesday 29th March**
- **Wednesday 10th May**
- **Wednesday 28th June**
- **Wednesday 23rd August**
- **Wednesday 25th October**

Baptism Sunday 12.30pm

- **Sunday 29th January**
- **Sunday 26th February**
- **Sunday 23rd April**
- **Sunday 4th June**
- **Sunday 23rd July**
- **Sunday 17th September**
- **Sunday 19th November**

Parish Priest

Father Rob Esdaile 020 8398 6127
Parish Office 020 8398 2191

Team

Angie Henderson
Sue Knight
Jo Wales

BAPTISM



**Baptising
your child
at
Our Lady of
Lourdes**



About Baptism

Most parents would agree that there is nothing like the feeling of holding a newborn child in your arms. The sense of wonder, the feeling of gratitude, and the awesome responsibility can be overwhelming. The experience of birth is a moment when we are aware that life is bigger than we are, that God is the source of life and love. Babies are gifts and they remind us that all life is a gift from God.

Just as God gave your child the gift of life, God wants to give your child the gift of faith. As you were an instrument of God in giving your child human life, so too, by having your child Baptised, you are an instrument through which God gives your child faith.

In Baptism the gift of faith is like a seed planted in fertile soil. Your love, your teaching and your example are the sun, the rain and the nourishment that allow the seed to grow.

Baptism is a wonderful celebration in which everyone has an important part to play. As co-creators with God and as the primary influence on your child's life, your role as a parent is essential. And so in the celebration of Baptism you also play an important role. You are the ones who present your child to the Church, give him or her a name, testify to the faith that you will share, and promise to be a good example to your child.

About Baptism

If you are returning to the practice of your faith the parish particularly want to support you, so we may ask you to delay your child's baptism until you have got to know the community a little. Similarly, if you are presenting an older child for baptism it is important that some preparation is done with the child appropriate to his or her age.

Preparation for Baptism

In order to prepare for your child's baptism it is requested that you attend an evening of presentation, discussion and information sharing prior to celebrating the sacrament. The purpose of the evening is to think and talk about the meaning of Baptism. We ask parents to attend for each child; this helps us focus on the fact that we wish to welcome each child as an individual into the community.

The evening will be held in one of the course leaders' home, on a mid week evening. Start time will be 8pm and sessions normally last a little over 2 hours. Exact details will be confirmed to you closer to the date. See dates on the reverse.

The evening is very informal and interactive and lively debates are encouraged.

What to do next

1. Booking the Baptism

Prior to the Baptism of your child Father Rob would like to meet with you. Please call Fr. Rob to arrange a mutually convenient time. This is an informal get together to meet up so as to get to know you, resolve any queries you may have, and agree dates.

2. Attending a Preparation evening

Before your child is baptised we ask you to attend a baptism preparation session. Please contact the parish office to sign up to one of the evenings.

3. Choose your dates

We have a "Baptism Sunday" about every 6 weeks through the year. On these days families wishing to have their children baptised may choose between a shared celebration with other families (at 12.30pm) or baptism at whichever mass the family normally attends

4. Complete the attached form

Please complete the form attached and return to the office.



Father Rob: 020 8398 6127
Parish Office: 020 8398 2191

