

INFORMATION FOR THE BAPTISM OF CHILDREN



One Family

**ST PAUL APOSTLE CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY**

A Journey of Discovery

Baptism: The First of Many Sacraments

Welcome to St Paul Apostle Parish, for the celebration of this First Sacrament with your child. We hope you will find support, friendship and faith with us over the coming years.

Baptism is a family affair. In Baptism, children receive the first Sacrament in their Initiation into the Catholic Community, their new family. There are three steps in the process of preparing for and celebrating Baptism at St Paul Apostle Parish which you need to take into account in planning the date. Together with the Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, these Sacraments initiate us into the life of the Christian Community.

“Baptism, together with the other sacraments, is both a sign and a celebration of our belonging to the Catholic Community. In proclaiming our faith together, we grow as a community that loves and serves ... Baptism is like a second birth. On the day of our baptism, we are claimed as a child of God, and publicly welcomed into the community of faith, of the Catholic Church.”
(From: “Our People’s Story” by L.E I-Hage & A. Walsh.)

Through the Sacrament of Baptism, your child is welcomed in the Catholic faith and you make a promise to do all you can to make that **faith a lived reality in your home**. Faith is a gift of God that is encouraged by example and instruction; it is both lived and learnt. Our children are entrusted to us and we are to be their parents, mentors, guardians, protectors, teachers and friends.

Baptism Preparation

Parents and are required to attend a preparation session. We ask that the **godparents** wherever possible also attend this preparation session. Some parents may choose to do this before the birth of their child. This is a time when we will help you focus on this first Sacrament you are presenting your child for. You will have the opportunity to:

- meet other parents presenting their children for baptism;
- share on the changes to family life;
- share on your hopes and dreams for your child and family;
- discover what will happen at the Baptism.
- Understand a little more about our parish family, and the opportunities that are available for you to be more involved.

You will find it a supportive time as you begin this faith journey with your child.

Please come to the session knowing your views are valued. We will go over the ceremony in full, so you will be familiar with all the symbols

associated with Baptism and your part in the ceremony. If you have any questions regarding the Baptism of your child, do not hesitate to ask a team member, who will do their best to answer them for you.

At this Session, you will be given a Sacrament Stole and directions on how to personalise it for your child. These preparation sessions are held on the **3rd Sunday of the month** in the Parish Office (in the grounds near the Church) at 3.45-5.00pm

Godparents

In order to be a godparent, a person must be mature enough to accept responsibility, and have a commitment to living the Catholic tradition. At least one godparent **must** be a Confirmed Catholic. The others at least should be Baptised Christians. Only two godparents are recorded in the Baptismal Register. Godparents are chosen to assist the parents. They are called to represent what ought to be the concern of the whole church that the baptised child be brought up in the ways of faith. The godparents express the sponsoring responsibility of the entire faith community. Parents should choose godparents whose own way of life expresses Christian commitment and is a source of inspiration to them and their children. It is hoped that the relationship between the child and his/her godparents will be fostered, especially during the formative years of life.

Rite of Welcome

On the **last Sunday of the month** before Baptism, the parents and their child are presented to the Community at one of the Masses. This is the Rite of Welcome and Blessing, the first part of the Baptism Ceremony. It is important to have your child with you. Please advise the Parish Office which Mass you will attend in advance. On the day, please go to the **Sacristy 10 minutes** before Mass and introduce yourself to the Priest.

Celebration of Baptism

Baptisms are usually celebrated on the 1st and 2nd Sundays of the month in most months, at 12.30pm. If you are a regular Church attender at a particular Mass you may wish to have the Baptism during a Mass on either of the weekends. A Baptism registration form is provided with this booklet. Please fill in the details in **bold print** and return to the Parish Centre, before the Baptism Preparation Session. It is customary for the family to make an offering at the time of Baptism for the Priest. **A suggested donation is \$50-\$100 and should be included with Registration Form.**

Baptism Calendar 2017

Baptisms: Jan 15th ; Feb 5th ; Feb 12th ; Mar 5th ; Mar 12th , Apr 2nd; May 7th ; May 14th , Jun 4th , Jun 11th; Jul 2nd ; Jul 9th; Aug 6th ; Aug 13th ; Sept 3rd ; Sept 10th; Oct 1st ; Oct 8th; Nov 5th; Nov 12th; Dec 3rd , Dec 10th .

Preparation: Dec 18th 2016; Jan 15th; Feb 19th , Mar 19th; April 16th; May 14th; June 18th; July 16th; Aug 20th ; Sept 17th; Oct 15th; Nov 19th; Dec 17th

Parish Information

Priests: Fr. Xavier Ubagara Swamy CP, PP
Fr. Jose Mathews CP,

Pastoral Associates: Sr. Joan Smith CP
Sr. Brigid Murphy CP

Parish Staff: Didi Karkas (Administration)
Gillian Velupillay (Finance)

Baptism Team: Carol Tinney, Beryl Barnfield,
with support from the Parish Team

Parish Centre: 5 William Hovell Drive,
Endeavour Hills, 3802
T: 9700 3781 **F:** 9700 6228
E: office@stpaulapostle.com.au
W: www.stpaulapostle.com.au

Mass Times: Saturday 6pm Sunday 9am, 11am, 6pm

Prayer for your child:

God, who is both Father and Mother, bless our child who is a precious gift of life from you, given into our care. Bless her/him with peace. May he/she grow in a world of love, acceptance and affirmation. May he/she always remember that you call her/him by name and walk with her/him always. As the first teachers of our child, may we teach her/him about you, a God who is always loving and always a friend, about living in love and harmony with others, and about the care for our earth. Amen.