



The Catholic Parishes of
St Aidan, Ashington & St Thomas of Canterbury, Longhorsley



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

PARISHES OF THE ST BENET BISCOP PARTNERSHIP
ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF HEXHAM AND NEWCASTLE



All correspondence should be directed to the parish office administered by St Aidan's, Ashington

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Northumberland
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As the first of the Church's seven sacraments, baptism gives us new birth in Christ, it makes us sharers in the mystery of his death and resurrection, grants the forgiveness of sin and brings us new freedom as God's children and members of his Church. Baptism is the sacrament on which our faith is founded and we are living members of Christ and of his Church, it is not just a simple rite or a formal act.

Pope Francis

Thank you for wanting to find out more about the Sacrament of Baptism. As Pope Francis reminds us, baptism isn't just a simple rite or a formal act, it is about a living faith. As Catholics we are part of the Body of Christ the Church, and this means we want to be part of the Christian Community each Sunday in attending the celebration of Mass each Sunday with others.

Whilst it is commendable that you want to have your child baptised, it cannot just begin and end with the baptism rite on the day. You and your child are the future of the Catholic Community here in Northumberland. As long as you are involved in building up the community, our Churches will continue to be here for future generations, but sadly with an ageing population and fewer people coming to Church we might risk losing what we have. But we have hope in you, that you will help to keep our Churches vibrant places of worship and community, by wanting to be an active member of the Church.

Baptism is the gateway to the Sacraments and it comes with responsibilities that you as parents, along with your godparents promise to keep. These promises are made before God. You are promising to accept the responsibility of training your child in the practice of the faith. The only way your child can learn this is through your own example of living a good Christian life.

*** PLEASE KEEP THIS INFORMATION SHEET ***

A few questions to ask yourself are:

Why do I want my child baptised?

What are my hopes and dreams for my child and their faith?

Am I ready to accept the responsibilities asked of me?

If you are ready to accept the awesome responsibility of the life of a Christian parent, keep on reading...

Some frequently asked questions...

WHEN AND WHERE

If one of the parents is a Baptised Catholic, and you live in St Aidan's or St Thomas of Canterbury parishes or regularly attend Mass there, you may have your child baptised in this parish. If you live in another parish, you should approach the Parish Priest of that parish.

Baptisms take place on most Saturdays of the Year with the exception of the Saturdays in Lent. A baptism will only be booked in once you have completed Baptism Preparation.

PREPARATION

Parents are required to attend a short preparation session prior to the baptism taking place; Godparents are warmly welcome to attend this time of reflection on the meaning of Baptism, the commitment you are undertaking and the practicalities of the ceremony. Preparation sessions take place on a Saturdays throughout the year. It is also nice to bring along the child who is to be baptised.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Whilst there is no charge for a Sacrament, we ask for a suggested donation of £30 to go towards the upkeep of the Church which helps towards heating and lighting costs. It also helps us to pay for the candles we give out to children when baptised and for their certificate.

HOW MANY GODPARENTS CAN I HAVE?

Each child should have at least one Godparent, *(the norm is two - a male and a female)*. You may have more, but only two will be entered into the baptism register *(the two names you write on this form)*.

A God Parent should be a **practicing Catholic, aged 16+**. Obviously the parents of the child cannot act as godparents and ideally it should be someone other than the grandparents of the child. It is possible to have a 'non-Catholic witness' in addition to your godparent, provided that person is **baptised Christian**. If you have any queries concerning a potential godparent/witness, please check this with the Parish Priest before asking that person to be a God Parent.

HOW MANY GUESTS CAN ATTEND?

Because you are not guaranteed to be the only baptism on the day, we limit each family to about 50 guests each.

DO I NEED TO BRING ANYTHING ON THE DAY?

Yes! You need to bring with you a white shawl or blanket - this is used as part of the rite on the day. Also, the child will be anointed on their chest, so please make sure it is easy to gain access for the anointing.

WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

Having read through this form and if you want to, please complete and return it to the priest at Sunday Mass. We will inform you of the next Baptism preparation session. At the baptism preparation session, the priest will meet with you and put a date in the diary.

***** PLEASE KEEP THIS INFORMATION SHEET *****

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Child's Full Name:	<i>Please indicate:</i>
Date of Birth:	Son / daughter
Father's Full Name: Religion: <i>(Do not put Christian)*</i> Church and Town of Baptism: Date of Baptism:	
Mother's Full Name: (Surname before Marriage): Religion: <i>(Do not put Christian)*</i> Church and Town of Baptism: Date of Baptism:	
<i>* which Christian Denomination? i.e. Catholic/Church of England/Methodist/Baptist, etc.</i>	
Address:	
Telephone:	Email:
Which Church do you attend?	

GODPARENTS

Each child should have at least one Godparent, *(the norm is two)*. You may have more, but **only two will be entered into the Baptism Register** *(the two names you write on this form)*.

A God Parent should be a **practicing Catholic, aged 16+**. Obviously the parents of the child cannot act as godparents and ideally it should be someone other than the grandparents of the child. It is possible to have a 'non-Catholic witness' in addition to your godparent, provided that person is **baptised Christian**. If you have any queries concerning a potential godparent/witness please check this with the Parish Priest before asking that person to be a God Parent.

GODPARENT DETAILS

These are the two which will be in the Baptism Register

God Parent 1:

Religion: *(Do not put Christian)**

Church and Town of Baptism:

Date of Baptism:

God Parent 2:

Religion: *(Do not put Christian)**

Church and Town of Baptism:

Date of Baptism:

Have you had a child baptized at St Aidan's or St Thomas' before?

If yes, what date did the baptism take place?

PLEASE HAND THIS FORM BACK TO THE PRIEST AT SUNDAY MASS

Please detach and keep the first part of the document as it contains useful information.

The information you have provided on this form will be stored and used by the Parishes of St Aidan's, Ashington, and St Thomas' of Canterbury, Longhorsley, and the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, for purposes relating to administering the Sacrament of Baptism. Some of the information that you provide on this form will be entered into the Baptism Register and stored indefinitely and securely in accordance with the laws and procedures of the Roman Catholic faith for future sacramental and archival purposes.

Details of how we process your data, and your rights, are included in the Diocesan Privacy Notice which can be accessed at <https://diocesanhn.org.uk/privacy-policy/> or by request from the parish.

PARISH OFFICE USE: Form received by <i>Name of Priest:</i>		Date form received:
CHURCH:	ST AIDAN, Ashington	ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, Longhorsley
BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION DATE:		
BAPTISM DAY/DATE:		
CELEBRANT:		
STEWARD(S):		
Certificate Printed:	Entered in Register	Archived