

The Celebration of Baptism

- *from the Catechism of the Catholic Church*

1234 The meaning and grace of the sacrament of Baptism are clearly seen in the rites of its celebration. By following the gestures and words of this celebration with attentive participation, the faithful are initiated into the riches this sacrament signifies and actually brings about in each newly baptized person.

1235 The sign of the cross, on the threshold of the celebration, marks with the imprint of Christ the one who is going to belong to him and signifies the grace of the redemption Christ won for us by his cross.

1236 The proclamation of the Word of God enlightens the candidates and the assembly with the revealed truth and elicits the response of faith, which is inseparable from Baptism. Indeed Baptism is "the sacrament of faith" in a particular way, since it is the sacramental entry into the life of faith.

1239 The essential rite of the sacrament follows: Baptism properly speaking. It signifies and actually brings about death to sin and entry into the life of the Most Holy Trinity through configuration to the Paschal mystery of Christ. Baptism is performed in the most expressive way by triple immersion in the baptismal water. However, from ancient times it has also been able to be conferred by pouring the water three times over the candidate's head.

1241 The anointing with sacred chrism, perfumed oil consecrated by the bishop, signifies the gift of the Holy Spirit to the newly baptized, who has become a Christian, that is, one "anointed" by the Holy Spirit, incorporated into Christ who is anointed priest, prophet, and king.[41]

1243 The white garment symbolizes that the person baptized has "put on Christ,"[42] has risen with Christ. The candle, lit from the Easter candle, signifies that Christ has enlightened the neophyte. In him the baptized are "the light of the world." [43]

The newly baptized is now, in the only Son, a child of God entitled to say the prayer of the children of God: "Our Father."

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Preparation for the Sacrament of Baptism

2010



Holy Family Parish, Benfleet
with St. Thomas More, Hadleigh
and
Our Lady of Canvey
and the English Martyrs, Canvey Island

The day of our Baptism is the most important day of our life, because through it we become members of the Church and we receive the promise of eternal life.

It is important that we prepare ourselves through prayer and attending Mass for this unique occasion in the life of our child.

Our preparation evenings are intended for all parents wishing to have their babies or children baptised in our Church. Parents who are expecting their first child and those who have had time away from regular attendance at Sunday Mass will be required to attend two preparation evenings prior to the birth of their baby. Godparents and witnesses are also very welcome to attend these meetings. Separate arrangements will be made if your child is over the age of 3. (Please contact the Parish Office). Parents who have completed a Preparation Course more than 3 years ago will need to attend a new one.

Parents will also be required to attend Mass regularly for at least 3 - 6 months before booking the date of their child's Baptism. Parents who are new to the area may be asked for proof of practice from their previous parish priest.

Baptism Preparation will take place over two weeks in the St. John Bosco Hall at Holy Family Church.

Both parents are expected to participate in this valuable opportunity to share in preparing for this important stage in the faith of their child.

Please submit your name, address and telephone number and your preferred Preparation Programme dates to the Parish Office using the form enclosed. If you have any queries or questions, please contact the Parish Office, Benfleet on 01268 799649 or the Parish Office, Canvey on 01268 682599

BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAMMES 2010

7.15pm for 7.30pm
in St. John Bosco Hall, Holy Family Church.
661 High Road, Benfleet, SS7 5SF

Jesus said to His disciples, "*All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore, make disciples of all nations, baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you.*" (Matthew 28: 18-20)

January 14th and 21st, 2010

March 11th and 18th, 2010

(No Baptisms during Lent)

May 20th and 27th, 2010

July 8th and 22nd

September 16th and 23rd

November 18th and 25th

Tea or coffee will be served from 7.15pm onwards to enable us to start promptly at 7.30pm. We aim to finish the meeting by 9pm.