

Tips for Parents.

Rite of Welcome

The Rite of Welcome is held on the same day as your child's Baptism on the Sunday during the 10.45am Mass on Sunday. Please arrive ten minutes before Mass and speak to the Priest to let him know you have arrived. Please sit near the front of the Church. No photo's are to be taken during the Mass please.

Day of Baptism

Baptisms are held at: St Peter's College – **55 MacKillop Way, Cnr Heather Grove, Clyde North.** Please speak to the Priest prior to your child's Baptism to let him know you have arrived. The Baptism will begin at 12.00pm.

Candle and stole.

Baptism candles and stoles can be purchased by filling in the supplied order form and contacting Anita Hughes on 0450 782 558 or ahughes1002001@yahoo.com

If you wish to decorate your own stole and candle you are welcome to do so.

The designs can be viewed at the following locations:

SHOPPING ON CLYDE - 4.1 160 Shopping Mall, 280 Berwick-Cranbourne Rd, Clyde Nth 5998 9399

JMJ NEWS – Lottery Retailer, 8/2 Selandra Blvd, Clyde Nth 5998 5968

What does the Baptism cost?

There is no compulsory fee – but it is usual to make an offering to the parish. The amount is up to each family, usually about \$20 - \$50. A Baptism offering envelope will be provided at the Baptism Preparation afternoon or you can use your own envelope.

Family prayers.

You are the first teachers of your children in the ways of faith. Faith grows by your words and by your actions. Prayer can be a way to model your faith by simply thanking God at the end of the day, a blessing at mealtime or a short reading from the bible. Traditional prayers are supplied to assist you in this Pack.

Sacraments of Initiation.

Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist are the three sacraments of Initiation with Reconciliation the Sacrament of Healing all being part of your child's journey in faith. The Parish has adopted a sacramental process that involves a partnership between the family, the Parish and our Catholic school. We each have a role and responsibility in the faith development of these children.

Baptism Preparation

All families are required to attend a Baptism Preparation for their child together with their Godparents. If you have not already done so, please contact the Parish Office on: 5998 0947 **OR** email: parish@stthomasap.org.au to book in for your session. These sessions are held on every 1st Sunday of the month

AT: 50 Heather Grove, Cranbourne East or St Peter's College, Clyde North
(Venue to be confirmed closer to the date of your Baptism Preparation)

TIME: 2.00pm-5.00pm.

Please also ensure that you have filled a green booking form which is supplied by the Parish Office. Please do not fill in the dates on the first two lines of this form until you have cross-checked with us at the office if your intended dates have not been taken already. It is very important that you fill in this form neatly as we use these details to record in the Baptism register and to print your child's certificate. Please do not write Christian as religion – we need the name of the faith the Godparent or Christian witness was baptised.

Please remember to return this form to the Parish Office before you attend your Preparation session.

If you do not Live in the Parish Boundaries

If you DO NOT live in parish boundaries of St Thomas the Apostle Parish Clyde North you should have obtained a letter of permission from the parish closest to where you live. We require this letter before your child can be baptised in our parish.

If you have an older child needing to be Baptised

If your child is over 5 years of age you will need to let the Parish Office know so that, three preparation sessions can be organised for your child.

Godparents

A Catholic Child must have at least one Godparent who is Catholic, over the age of sixteen, who has made their Sacraments and is firm in their faith. Their role will be that of supporting you as parents in bringing up your child in the Christian faith. As long as there is one Catholic Godparent, the child can also have a 'Christian Witness' who is not Catholic but is a Baptised Christian. A person cannot be a Christian witness if they have been baptised in another faith.

We hope to see you more often as you help your child become a strong member of this Catholic Community.



**INVITATION TO THE BAPTISM PREPARATION PROGRAM
OF
ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE PARISH**

**HELD ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH FROM 2.00PM – 5.00PM
AT: 50 HEATHER GROVE, CRANBOURNE EAST OR ST PETER'S COLLEGE, CLYDE NORTH
(Venue to be confirmed closer to the date of your Baptism Preparation)**

BAPTISM

Some people think of Baptism simply as something else to “get done”. They speak of Baptism as having the baby “done”. That is unfortunate. For Baptism is a birth into the Christian community and is as solemn and important as birth itself. It is an event that needs to be prepared for.

Your most important preparation is to look at your own faith. The fact that you ask to have your baby baptised should be a sign that you recognise the importance of God in your own life and in the life of your child.

From the earliest days of the Church children too young to answer for themselves have been baptised because their parents wanted them to share in the life and the faith of God and his Church and promised to nourish that faith.

As you help your child to grow up in the love of God they will also help you grow. As you teach your child to pray you yourself will deepen your prayer. As you teach your child to appreciate the Mass your own faith will be enriched.

Baptism is the beginning of a journey in faith, but we travel together as a Catholic faith community.

YOUR CHILD’S BAPTISM

We initiate small children into the Church through Baptism because parents ask. During the ceremony the priest will say: ***You have asked to have your child baptised.*** In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him/her up to keep God’s commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking? Hopefully you can and will answer: ***“We do”.***

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

BAPTISM is the first step of initiation into a new way of life: the life of God and of a member of God’s family, the Church, locally: St. Thomas the Apostle Parish.

Through Baptism God does three things:

- * We are born again, we become children of God and He takes away sin.
- * He sends the Holy Spirit to dwell within us.
- * He makes us members of the Church.

PARENTS RESPONSIBILITY

By asking to have your child baptised you are accepting some responsibilities.

- * You will be the ‘first’ teacher of your child ‘in the ways of faith’.
- * You will introduce your child into the life of God and the Church.

HOW DO YOU DO THIS?

To keep God’s commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour: You teach your child

- * By the example of your own life.
- * You teach your child about God and Jesus as our Saviour.
- * Help your child in going to Mass and being introduced into the life of the Parish.
- * Your life style of loving neighbour is important.