



St John The Evangelist Parish Riverstone

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“After Jesus was Baptised, He heard a voice from Heaven saying, “You are my beloved Son” (Mark 1:9-11).”

St John’s Baptism Information

Baptism is the introduction of an individual into the church community. Through the waters of Baptism your child enters the life of God- Father, Son, and Spirit. As parents you are the first and foremost teachers of the faith for your child. Parents are encouraged to teach by example and by word and embrace the importance of faith in God. Your parish community is here to support you, to raise your child as a Catholic Christian.

The parish is required to comply with the obligations of the Diocese of Parramatta. Preparation for Baptism requires parents to; attend a preparation class, present your child to the church community at a Mass service, follow the Baptism requirements, accept the photography and filming policy, and select godparents according to the requirements. Following all these outlined steps is very important during this very special Sacrament.

Please read the information provided carefully.

Baptism Requirements

For a child to be Baptised in a Catholic Church at least one parent must be Catholic. A copy of a baptismal certificate is required to confirm this sacrament.

The parish is required to keep a Baptismal Register with information about your child’s baptism. A baptism enrolment form must be completed and returned with copies of relevant documents. Once, this information is received a date will be confirmed, without this, a Baptism cannot be booked. The enrolment form can be collected from the parish office or downloaded from the website.

The Baptism of your child should take place in your own local parish church or the church where you regularly go to Mass. In this way you are connected to your local Catholic Community, as it celebrates your child becoming a brother or sister to their local Catholic Parish family. If you do not reside within the St John’s Parish Area, you are required to obtain a permission letter from the parish office of your local church.

Celebration Dates

At present, St John’s celebrates Baptisms on Sunday at 12pm every 2nd and 4th week of the month or during the Sunday Mass service at 9am or 10:30am. A date will only be confirmed, once the enrolment form, relevant documents and donation are submitted requiring 8 weeks’ notice. Please be aware that other celebrations occur during the year like weddings, feast days, Easter, Christmas, and Sacraments making some dates unavailable. Therefore, please plan, especially if you are after a particular date.

Godparents

At St John's there is **a minimum of 2 godparents (1 male and 1 female)**. They must be Catholic who have been baptised, confirmed, and received the Eucharist. Any additional godparents need to be over 16 years of age. The names of the godparents will be included on all official documents. Godparent's names must be included on the enrolment form and present at the Baptism ceremony.

Preparation Class

It is essential that one or both parents attend a Baptism Preparation Class before the date of the Baptism. These classes will be held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the church hall (except the month of January). This date is organised when the enrolment form is returned to the parish office. You will need to contact the Parish Office 1 week before the class to confirm your attendance. There will be an attendance register to sign as you arrive for the meeting. Parents may bring their child if needed.

Attending a Mass Service

You are required to attend a Mass service to present your child to the parish community.

Mass times: Tuesday to Friday at 8:30am, Saturday at 6pm or Sunday at 7am, 9pm or 10:30am

During Mass, the priest will welcome you and your child to the community. The Rite of Welcome will include asking the name of your child and the intentions you have. Advise the parish office 1 week prior to the Mass service attending. Please arrive 15mins prior to the commencement of Mass, present yourself to the coordinator/priest and sit on the first or second pew in the church.

Photograph/Recording Policy

At St John's respectful practices are followed to ensure the community is safe. Any photography and filming during a Baptism and any sacred liturgy **is not permitted** during Mass. Please refrain from taking any photos or recording during the ceremony. Please advise family members, friends, and professional photographers of this restriction. There will be an opportunity to take photographs or recordings before the commencement of the Baptism celebration and after the conclusion of the celebration.

Donation

On the occasion of a Baptism, it is customary to make an offering to the church. The suggested amount is \$150. This amount assists with maintaining the church, covering the cost of materials, and the ongoing cost of the Diocese of Parramatta. The donation is to be paid when the enrolment form is returned. As there are no EFTPOS facilities only cash will be accepted, your support with this is appreciated.

Baptismal Candle and White Gown

The Baptismal candle is lit during the ceremony from the Easter candle which is a symbol of our Risen Lord. Thus, the Baptismal candle is a symbol that the baptised child has Jesus as his or her light and guide. A Baptismal candle for your child can be purchased at the preparation class (refer to price list) or you may choose to purchase a candle from another source.

At Baptism, a child (new member) is wrapped in a white garment as a sign of acceptance and belonging in the community of faith. White is a symbol of purity and cleanliness. The white baptismal garment shows that the newly baptised is now a Christian and with the help of family, godparents and friends will grow up to be like Jesus. If your child is dressed in a white garment, it is optional to purchase a baptism bib at the preparation class (refer to price list).

Baptism Items Price List		
Baptism Pack (1 bib and 2 Taper Candles) \$25 per pack		
Taper Candle: thin \$5 each	Pillar Candle: large \$12each	Baptism Bib - \$20 each
Note: These items can be purchased at the Baptism Preparation Class. As there are no EFTPOS facilities only cash will be accepted.		

Enrolment Process

After reading this Baptism information and requirements please follow the steps below to enrol your child.

1. Collect an enrolment form from the parish office or download from the website.
2. Complete the enrolment form.
3. Forms must be dropped off at the Parish office with copies of supporting documents and donation. **Baptism date will be confirmed when ALL this is received.** Please note an incomplete form will not be accepted.
4. Baptism preparation class will be booked – please have in mind the Tuesday class you will be attending.
5. As there are many available times to attend a Mass Service please organise and advise the parish office.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Parish Office on 02 9627 1176 or email stjohns10@bigpond.com

God Bless,

Father Zakaria Gayed

Parish Priest

Parent Awareness Message

Baptism means that you are choosing to hand onto your child something that you really believe is important for yourself. It makes sense that you try to live and embrace the importance of your faith. Attend weekend Mass and be nourished in your friendship with Jesus by hearing his Word and receiving him in Holy Communion. Ask Jesus and the Holy Spirit to make you stronger in your faith – take time to pray. It is important to be an active part of this family so that your child will see faith and belonging in action.