

Thank you for your enquiry regarding Baptism for your child.

a) Documents needed (copies to be filed)

Proof of identity of both parents

Birth certificate of the child

Baptismal certificate of primary godparent

Reference letter from parish priest if the family is not attending at St Michael's

b) Baptism Registration Form

The baptism registration form must be filled in for every child and submitted to the Parish Office prior to the Baptism preparation session. The form is attached to this email.

c) Baptism Preparation Session (for all parents)

Mr Royston Fernandes usually conducts the Baptism preparation sessions.

They are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm at the Parish Office. Parents must indicate the desired date for Baptism preparation session in the registration form.

The sessions are between 1 to 1.5 hours duration.

During the session, a packet will be given to parents (one for every child) which contains a donation envelope, the Baptism Rite script, a copy of the Nicene Creed, and information about the Sacrament of Baptism.

It is a requirement for parents and godparents to attend one Baptism preparation session. This requirement is waived if the parents have had a child baptised within the last 12 months at St Michael's.

d) Baptism Instruction Sessions (for school-age children only)

If Baptism is requested for a school age child, the child will need to attend Baptism instruction sessions (may be more than one). A Sacramental Team member usually conducts these. The Sacramental Team handles the parish programs for First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. The sessions are of 1 hour duration and are organised on Sundays either at 9.00 am or 11.00 am in the Parish Office.

e) Godparents

Godparents are chosen by the parents to present the child (with the parents) for Baptism and to assist the parents in bringing up the child in the Catholic Faith so that the child may fulfil the baptismal promises made by the parents on his/her behalf.

It is therefore highly desirable that the godparent/s:

*must be at least 16 years old.

*should not be the candidate's parent.

*must have received the sacrament of Confirmation in the Catholic Church (we require a copy of the godparent/s' Baptismal certificate).

*should live according to the teachings of the Catholic Faith including attending Mass every Sunday and receiving the sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Communion regularly.

*must be willing and able to mentor and guide the child in the practice of the Faith.

f) Date and Time

Parents must indicate the desired date for Baptism in the registration form.

Child Baptisms are usually held on Sundays at 11.15 am (after the 10.00 Mass). Parents may request for the Baptism to be held within the Mass (usually Sunday, 10.00 am or Saturday, 9.00 am). There may be multiple Baptisms at the same time. The date of Baptism will be confirmed during the Baptism preparation session.

g) Parents are reminded to bring a Baptism candle (available from the Parish Piety Shop) and a white garment (the child might be dressed in a white jacket or scarf).