



Baptism

Sacred Heart
Koorinal

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Addresses:

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If you choose to have your child baptised outside of a Mass, you need to attend a **Welcoming Mass**. After the Baptism Preparation Session and in the weeks prior to the Baptism of your child, you will be required to bring your child to a weekend Mass to be welcomed by the community. Every weekend Mass is available to you.

Masses at Sacred Heart Church are:

5.30pm Saturday Vigil
8.00am and 10.00am Sunday

You may have an **outside priest** baptise your child by arrangement with Fr Paddy. You will still be expected to attend the Baptismal Preparation and Welcoming Mass prior to the Baptism.

It is expected that **at least one of the godparents is a Catholic**. Two godparents, a godmother and a godfather is the norm.

In addition to a \$30 **administration fee**, it is customary to make an **offering** at the Church after the baptismal ceremony. The offering amount is up to the parents but \$50-100 is the usual amount.



Why is Baptism so significant?

Through Baptism we are given the privilege of being part of our Catholic community

In Baptism we are given a share in God's life

Baptism incorporates us into the Body of Christ

Through the waters of Baptism we have been liberated from the slavery of sin in order to live life to the full

The outpouring of the Spirit at baptism enables us to bring Christ to the world.

The Symbols of Baptism

Baptism with Water

The water is a symbol of cleansing—washing away original sin. It is also a sign of life—the new spiritual life that the baby or child is entering.

Anointing with Oil

The oil symbolises strengthening of faith in the challenges of life ahead—the sealing with the Holy Spirit.

Candle

Symbolises our sharing in the Light of Jesus. We are called to be like Him who is the Light to the world.

Candles available from:

- You can purchase a candle from the Parish for \$40.
- Cignall Gift Shop, Baylis Street, Wagga Wagga
- Sisters of Divine Master, Homebush (02) 9764 2860
- The Abbey Craft Benedictines at Jamberoo (02) 423 60011
www.jamberooabbey.org.au



What do I need to know?

Your local parish is the most appropriate place for your child to be baptised. It is the local parish community that welcomes new members and provides a sense of belonging for the child.

Baptisms usually take place during any of the Sunday Masses or 12 noon on Sundays, or by special arrangement with Fr Paddy.

Parents are required to take part in a **Baptismal Preparation** session which will usually be held at 9am on the second Saturday of the month.

The purpose of Baptism Preparation is fourfold:

1. To provide an opportunity for evangelisation and instruction for parents so that they may better understand the importance of the sacrament in the life of the child.
2. To provide information regarding the responsibility of parents and godparents in the continuing faith formation of their child.
3. To provide the opportunity for the parish priest to promote and assess the readiness of parents to have their child baptised and raise their child in the faith of the Church.
4. To enable families to be more effectively integrated into the life of the parish community.

The Session will take about one hour and will include:

- The responsibilities of Catholic parenthood
- The theology and spirituality of baptism
- The importance of personal prayer as a mark of a living relationship with God
- The Rite of Baptism symbols and actions
- The role of parents and godparents in the child's ongoing faith development