

Canon 872 and 874 Speaks about Sponsors/Godparents,

872.1 States that:

"in so far as possible, a person to be baptised is to be given a sponsor (Godparent) who assists an adult in Christian Initiation or TOGETHER WITH THE PARENTS presents an INFANT for Baptism.

A sponsor also helps the baptised person to lead a Christian life in keeping with the baptism and to fulfil FAITHFULLY the OBLIGATION inherent in it".

And Canon 874.1 describes who can be a Sponsor (Godparent):

"To be permitted to take on the function of sponsor a person must:

1/ be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;

2/ have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;

3/ be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;

4/ not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;

5/ not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized."

This is what Canon 874.2 says:

"A baptized person who belongs to A NON-CATHOLIC ecclesial community is NOT to participate EXCEPT together with a Catholic sponsor and then ONLY AS A WITNESS of the baptism."

In Summary:

From the above, it means only a confirmed and practising Catholics are allowed to be a sponsor or a Godparent.

Non-Catholics cannot be allowed to be a Godparent, but can be a WITNESS to the baptism.
The church requires a Sponsor or Godparent to be a practising Catholic.

Those outside our parish must request a letter from their parish mailed to our parish with a letterhead and stamped/sealed or an email sent from official parish priest email address (not Gmail or similar and not parish administrator/secretary as this is a pastoral matter and must come from clergy)

God parents must attend the course with the parent/s. At least one Godparent and one parent must attend the course.

If any of the above is an issue, please contact parish priest for pastoral judgement.