

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

OUR LADY AND ST MICHAEL PARISH – GARSTON

TEL: 01923673239

WEB: <http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/garston>

CONGRATULATIONS on the birth of your child!

Like all parents, you want the best for your child. Your request for the gift of baptism shows that you want to hand on the faith to your child, to join the Christian family, and to come to know God as a loving father.

Are you a member of our parish and attend Mass regularly? Fantastic, please book your place on the next Baptism Course via the parish website (above) and once you have attended, we will help arrange the date and time of your child's Baptism.

If you are new to our parish or have been attending Mass elsewhere, please make yourself known to our Parish Priest or in his absence, any of the Parish Clergy. You will need to provide us with the contact details of your last parish to verify you are a practicing Catholic, if this is not possible, please make an appointment with our Parish Priest to plan a way forward.

BAPTISM COURSE

As part of the preparation for your child's Baptism, we require the parents to attend and complete a Preparation Course. (Unless you have attended one in the last two years and with a certificate to prove it). We may need to see the Baptismal Certificate of at least one of the Catholic parents and the Birth Certificate of your child. ***(Please do not arrange any reception until the date of Baptism has been confirmed by us).***

If you live outside of our parish, you may be asked to get a Letter of Permission from the parish priest in whose parish you live.

YOUR CHILD'S NAME

Names are very important. At least one of the names you choose for your child should be a saint's name or a name associated with Judeo-Christian religion. It is a good tradition to have a patron saint.

GOD PARENTS

The people you ask to be God parents should share your values and ideas; they should have contact with your children as they grow up. The Catholic Church require at least one of the Godparents you choose has been confirmed and is a practising Catholic, over sixteen years of age. Ideally it would be good to have two Catholic Godparents. If they are not members of our parish, they will need a letter from their parish priest indicating their suitability to be Godparents by emailing the parish office. ***(Non-Catholics cannot act as Godparents)***

PLANNING THE DAY

Once you have completed the Baptism Preparation Course please contact us in order to arrange the date of the Baptism ceremony. They are usually celebrated on a Saturday.

READINGS: You may choose one or two readings from the Bible either the Old and or the New Testaments. You may ask a Godparent or younger members of the family to read it. (Gospels are read by the Priest or Deacon).

BIDDING PRAYERS: You can prepare some Bidding prayers, not more than six. You may ask the priest or the deacon to prepare and also read them for you.

DONATION: The church does not charge for Baptism or any service. It is however, customary for families to make an offering or donation on the occasion of a Baptism by way of giving thanks to God, to support the parish clergy and cover other costs.

(Parents and Godparents be at the Church 15 minutes before the agreed time. The Baptism takes place in the main church. Parents and Godparents sit on the first pew closest to Lectern by the right side of the Altar. Do not forget to bring a Shawl or something similar to be put on your child during baptism. The priest or Deacon will be happy to be in your photos after the service)

BEYOND BAPTISM

It is our hope that you will help the gift of God's life to grow and deepen in your child by coming to Mass regularly at Our Lady and St Michael's Parish every Sunday. The 10.00 am Mass is usually for the family. There are many opportunities to share in the parish, e.g. volunteering to help with the Youth Group, in the Sunday Liturgy as a Reader, member of the choir, organist, cleaner, DIY person, etc.