

CATHOLIC PARISH OF HEMEL HEMPSTEAD WEST

APPLICATION FOR HOLY BAPTISM

SURNAME OF CHILD
(BLOCK CAPITALS)

BAPTISMAL NAMES(BOY/GIRL)
(BLOCK CAPITALS)

DATE OF BIRTH

ADDRESS &
POST CODE

TELEPHONE NUMBER

MOTHER'S NAME

FATHER'S NAME

MOTHER'S RELIGION

FATHER'S RELIGION

GODFATHER'S NAME

GODMOTHER'S NAME

DATE OF BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS

DATE OF BAPTISM

CHURCH

PRIEST.....

Office Use : Donation Received

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Infant Baptism

Born with a fallen nature and tainted by original sin, children also have need of the new birth in Baptism to be freed from the power of darkness and brought into the realm of the freedom of the children of God, to which all men are called. The sheer gratuitousness of the grace of salvation is particularly manifest in infant Baptism. The Church and the parents would deny a child the priceless grace of becoming a child of God were they not to confer Baptism shortly after birth. Christian parents will recognize that this practice also accords with their role as nurturers of the life that God has entrusted to them

The practice of infant Baptism is an immemorial tradition of the Church. There is explicit testimony to this practice from the second century on, and it is quite possible that, from the beginning of the apostolic preaching, when whole 'households' received Baptism, infants may also have been baptised.

Lumen Gentium

Faith and Baptism

Baptism is the sacrament of faith. But faith needs the community of believers. It is only within the faith of the Church that each of the faithful can believe. The faith required for Baptism is not a perfect and mature faith, but a beginning that is called to develop.

For all the baptised, children or adults, faith must grow after Baptism. For this reason the Church celebrates each year at the Easter Vigil the renewal of baptismal promises. Preparation for the Baptism leads only to the threshold of new life. Baptism is the source of that new life in Christ from which the entire Christian life springs forth.

For the grace of Baptism to unfold, the parents' help is important. So too is the role of the godfather and godmother, who must be firm believers, able and ready to help the newly baptised – child or adult – on the road of Christian life. Their task is a truly ecclesial function. The whole ecclesial community (church family) bears some responsibility for the development and safeguarding of the grace given at Baptism.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church 1250-1255

Protecting your privacy: Your personal details will be held on file/stored on the parish computer securely. After the Baptism your details will be entered into the Baptism Register. You can read our full privacy policy at: rcdow.org.uk/diocese/privacy-policy.

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Please return to: The Parish Administrator,
The Parish Office | 186 St Johns Road | Hemel Hempstead | HP1 1NR | t: 01442 391759 |
shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk

HOLY BAPTISM is celebrated usually on the last Saturday of the month in St Mary and St Joseph, Boxmoor at 12 noon (but not in the Season of Lent and December).

To have your child baptised you need to be resident in the Parish and be attending Mass.

WHAT TO DO

1. Please make yourself known to the Parish Priest, Fr David Cherry, after Sunday Mass.
2. Make an appointment to go and see him by email davidcherry@rcdow.org.uk for about half an hour.
3. Before meeting the Parish Priest please note now the REQUIREMENTS FOR A CATHOLIC BAPTISM below.
4. At this meeting you will receive an APPLICATION FORM from the Parish Priest who will help you fill it in.
5. **BOOK A PREPARATION COURSE** online on the Calendar with the Parish Catechist, Callum Moore, who runs a class usually on the last Thursday of the month, 7-8.30pm. This session gives you an introduction to the meaning and to what will happen at the Baptism. Both parents need to attend this session.

If you have already attended a Baptism Preparation Class in the last 12 months please write the date attended on the Application Form.

6. **BOOK A DATE FOR THE BAPTISM:** When you have done the course and you have all the documents ready, please deliver your documents to the Parish Office and then contact the Parish Administrator, Shirley Bailey at shirleybailey@rcdow.org.uk to book the date of the Baptism.

To help with administration, please submit all documents together.

The Baptism date can only be booked on receipt of your Information Form and the required Certificates.

DONATION: Please enclose the suggested donation of £70 with your documents.

Please do not notify friends and family of a proposed Baptism date until completion of the course and any issues that arise are resolved with the Parish Priest, especially if it may be necessary to delay the Baptism.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A CATHOLIC BAPTISM

Parents: Either yourself or your partner needs to be a baptised Catholic to have your child baptised in the catholic church. Proof of baptism is required in the form of your Baptism Certificate or a letter from the Parish Priest where you were baptised, stating that your name appears in the Baptism Register of that Church.

If neither parent is a baptised Catholic, then unfortunately it is not possible to baptise your child. This is because they will not have the example of a lived Catholic family life.

If one or both of you would like to become Catholic we are happy to help. If you would like to begin this process please email Callum at cmoore@jfk.herts.sch.uk

A **Godparent** should be a baptised Catholic who is at least 16 years of age and who believes and practices the Catholic faith as a member of a Catholic Parish community.

Each child being baptised is required to have at least one Godparent and that person must be a baptised and practising Catholic. Proof of Baptism of the godparent is required in the form of a certificate to be submitted with the application.

A second Godparent is allowed as well and they must be of the opposite gender from the first; and must also be a baptised Catholic. You cannot have more than 4 Godparents.

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Christian Witness of the Baptism: A Christian of another Christian faith community can be a 'Christian Witness' but his/her name will not appear on the Baptism Certificate or in the Baptism Register.

A **proxy** is someone who stands in for a Godparent who is unable to be present at the Baptism ceremony.

Emergency Baptism

In the rare event that an unbaptised child is in danger of death, any person (even a non-Christian) may baptise if they have the intention to do what the Church does. Baptisms which are considered valid must use both water (pouring, sprinkling, or immersing the one baptised) and the Trinitarian formula: **"I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit"**. For the baptism to be valid water must strike the child's head as you say this phrase. Any variation of this procedure is not valid.