CATHOLIC PARISH
OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
St John the Baptist, Andover
St John Fisher, Whitchurch
Portsmouth Diocesan Trust Registered Charity 1199568



St John the Baptist RC Church
Parish Office
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APPLICATION FORM FOR BAPTISM

Please complete and return this form. If you live outside the Parish you must obtain the permission of your local Parish Priest before making the application. If there is any difficulty, do not hesitate to ask Canon Chris or contact the Parish Office.

BAPTISM – Gateway to Life in the Spirit

Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit (vitae spiritualis ianua), and the door which gives access to the other Sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons of God; we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission: 'Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the world.'

(Please PRINT all names)
Father's name: _____Father's Religion: _____

Mother's name: _____Mother's Religion: _____

Mother's maiden name:_____

Address of parents: _____

_____Post Code: _____

Contact telephone number(s): _____

Email contact: _____

WHY IS BAPTISM NECESSARY?

The Lord himself affirms that Baptism is necessary for salvation. He also commands his disciples to proclaim the Gospel to all nations and to baptize them. Baptism is necessary for salvation for those to whom the Gospel has been proclaimed and who have had the possibility of asking for this sacrament. The Church does not know of any means other than Baptism that assures entry into eternal beatitude; this is why she takes care not to neglect the mission she has received from the Lord to see that all who can be baptized are 'reborn of water and the Spirit'. God has bound salvation to the sacrament of baptism, but he himself is not bound by his sacraments.
(Please PRINT all names)
Baptismal name(s) of child: _____

Surname of child: _____

Child's date of birth: _____

THE BAPTISMAL SEAL.

Incorporated into Christ by Baptism, the person baptized is configured to Christ. Baptism seals the Christian with the indelible spiritual mark (character) of his or her belonging to Christ. No sin can erase this mark, even if sin prevents Baptism from bearing the fruits of salvation. **Given once**

BAPTISM IS BIRTH IN TO A NEW LIFE IN CHRIST.

Baptism is birth into the new life in Christ. In accordance with the Lord's will, it is necessary for salvation as is the church herself, which we enter by Baptism.

THE FRUIT OF BAPTISM

The fruit of Baptism, or baptismal grace, is a rich reality that includes forgiveness of original sin and all personal sins , birth into the new life by which man becomes an adoptive son of the Father, a member of Christ and a temple of the holy Spirit. By this very fact the person baptized is incorporated into the Church, the Body of Christ and made a sharer in the priesthood of Christ.

THE ROLE OF THE GODPARENT.

In the early church godparents were the sponsors for the converts to Christianity, they would confirm that the person putting themselves forward for Baptism was genuine and then would stand beside them and help them to grow in their Christian life. When infant Baptism became the usual practice in the second century it was felt that babies too, needed adults to stand beside them and support them as they grew in their faith. Initially the godparents would be the child's natural parents. From the ninth century onwards the role of godparent became one for someone close to the family but not the natural parent.
There is no legal role for godparents but the Church expects them to stand with the parents in supporting the child. When the child is given new gift of life in Baptism, the godparents undertake to help them to strive for maturity in faith, love and charity. In the service they will be asked, "Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents?" By positively answering they are expected to be a friend in faith to the child who can be called on in times of doubt, confusion and questioning. **That is why, along with the parents, they will be asked to profess their own faith during the Baptism service, and they will be called upon to reject all that is false and contrary to the Kingdom of God. This they must do in their own name and not for the Child.**

GODPARENTS: To be admitted to undertake the office of Godparent a person must:

- **Be not less than sixteen years of age.**
- **Be a Catholic, who has received the Blessed Eucharist, has been confirmed, and who lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken.**
- **The minimum requirement is one Catholic Godparent. Any other person asked to act as a Godparent should be a believing, baptized Christian, 'they may participate in Catholic Rites of baptism but obviously they cannot offer the guarantees required of the true godparent so they are called "witnesses". Those guarantees involve a commitment to foster the faith received by the child from the Church at baptism and to assist in fulfilling those duties that are implicit in the new baptismal dignity of the child, i.e. attend church' (cann. 872-874).**

NAMES OF GODPARENTS/WITNESSES (PLEASE PRINT ALL NAMES) RELIGION

1. _____ Religion:_____
2. _____ Religion: _____
3. _____ Religion: _____
4. _____ Religion: _____

In accordance with Diocesan ruling, the Parish Community asks parents desiring Baptism for their child, to attend a Baptismal Course. Parents and expectant parents will therefore need to plan ahead to avail themselves of one of these opportunities. For more information ring the Parish Office on 01264 352829

Information provided on this form, together with all other personal data held about these individuals by the Parish and the Diocese of Portsmouth, is processed in accordance with the Diocese's Privacy Notice. A copy of this Notice is available from the Diocesan Website or from the Parish Office.