



**The Combined Catholic Parishes of Our Lady of
the Rosary, Kyneton and St. Mary Magdalen',
Trentham**



BAPTISM INFORMATION

THINKING ABOUT BAPTISM

THE Baptism of your child provides a time for you to reflect upon your own faith. This is an opportunity to grow in understanding and faith and to deepen your own relationship with God. You have the chance to become more involved with the Catholic community into which your child is being Baptised.

Together as parents talk about:

- ◆ What Baptism means to you
- ◆ What Baptism will mean for your child; and
- ◆ Who you will choose for Godparents.

Become familiar with your local parish: your child is being Baptised into the Catholic faith which will be lived out in your local community.

Parents you are seeking Baptism for your child and it is your responsibility to nurture and teach your child in faith. Within the ceremony you are asked to renew your own faith in God and the church. You are making promises of Baptism on behalf of your child. It is important that you understand what you are promising.



Choose **Godparents** who inspire you and will be an example of faith to your child. At least one of your Godparents needs to be a Catholic who has celebrated the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation, i.e the Sacraments of Initiation.

Points to remember:

We welcome and bless your child at a welcome ceremony , celebrated in front of the parish community at the beginning of Mass. This is usually on the 1st Sunday of the month.

The baptism will be on the 4th Sunday of the month at 10.30am Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Kyneton or by appointment at St. Mary Magdalen's Church, Trentham.

If these times do not suit then an appropriate Sunday during the parish Mass can be arranged.



Parish Priest: Father Declan O'Brien

Parish Phone Number: (03) 5422 1261

These symbols were used in the initiation ceremonies of the early church, some of which had been used in Jewish rituals. For the first Christians, who were adults, they were a powerful way of expressing the change in their lives which Baptism signifies. Through these symbols, they tried to express their faith in the resurrection of Christ and their rising to a new kind of life through their union with him in the community of the church.

Through these symbols used in the Rite of Baptism of children; we celebrate the presence of the loving God who gives 'new life' in Christ symbolised in the water and the white robe, who claims this child as a son or daughter symbolised in the anointing with the oil, and who is filled with Spirit of the Risen Jesus, symbolised in the lighted candle.

As you experience the Baptismal ceremony be alert to the use of these symbols and the ritual which they are used. The reality they signify is the love of God for your child and also for all of us who are part of this community.

On the day of the Baptism you need:

A BAPTISMAL CANDLE. (You can decorate your own candle eg with the child's name, the date of the Baptism and a symbol: You can purchase a candle from an appropriate retailer or you can check out www.jamberooabbey.org.au and follow the prompts ordering from this site. These candles usually take about 3 weeks to arrive.)

THE STOLE PRESENTED TO YOU AT THE WELCOME MASS

YOUR GODPARENTS

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY YOUR CHILD.



Our Parish Community represents the wider church—you are not alone. Children are baptized into the faith of the church which represented by the priest, parents, Godparents, relatives and members of the local community.

Within the ceremony you are called upon to profess your faith in Jesus Christ. Your child is part of the Body of Christ, a member of the church. The community will welcome your child with great joy. You will be supported by the church through your local community.

Prior to the day of Baptism we welcome you and your child to the community. This is celebrated on the 1st Sunday of the month at the beginning of Mass. We introduce your family and child, we bless them and we present you with a white stole, a sign of innocence and the new life of the resurrection. You bring the stole with you on the day of the Baptism and symbolically your child is clothed in this garment, in the love of Christ.

As you have loved and welcomed your child into your family so to does the church welcome them into the family of God.

SYMBOLS USED IN BAPTISM WELCOME, WATER, OILS, SIGN OF THE CROSS, WHITE GARMENT, AND CANDLE.

On the day of the Baptism the ceremony will begin with a warm **welcome** to you and your family from the priest on behalf of the Christian community—the church. He will invite you to name your child and state what you ask of the church for your child. He will ask you to accept responsibility for your child's faith life. After acknowledging the Godparents who state their commitment to your child and your family he will sign your child on the forehead as ask both you the parents and the godparents to do the same.

After welcoming all present we listen to the gospel reading in which we hear of the New Life baptism brings and of the love Jesus holds for his children.



The Priest will then anoint your child with the **Oil of Baptism/ Salvation** in the name of Christ our Saviour, strengthening them in his name.



The **Water** is now blessed and you will be asked to renew the vows made for you at your Baptism.

Water: Is necessary for life. Poured over the head at Baptism it is a sign that the life of the Risen Christ is ours. Water is the symbol of life: without water there will be no life. Baptism signifies new life won for us when Jesus rose from the dead.

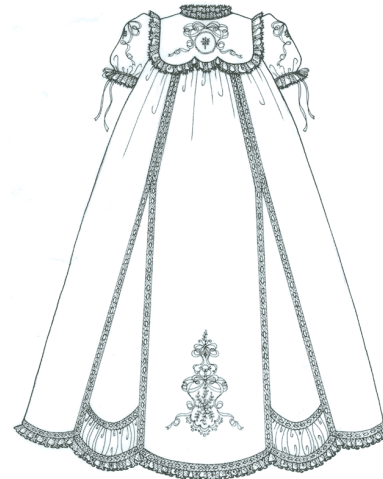
The priest will invite you, your child and the Godparents to stand around the Font Together and he will Baptise your child pouring water over their head while praying the words:



“.....I BAPTISE YOU IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT”



The child is then anointed with the **Oil of Chrism** which is rubbed onto the top of the head a sign being sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit; At your child's Confirmation they will be again be anointed with the **Oil of Chrism** personally confirming their own profession of faith. This oil is an olive oil and balsam, sweet smelling ointment.



In Baptism a **white garment** is worn as a sign of the new life of the Resurrection. Your family may have a white christening gown that is part of your tradition. Within this ceremony we also place the stole received at your child's welcome, around their shoulders enfolding them in God's love. White speaks of innocence, purity and newness

Your child's **Baptismal candle** will be lit from the Easter or Paschal candle that is near the Font. These candles symbolise Christ the Light of the World. The Baptismal candle represents to us that the light of Christ has now entered your child's life and the flame symbolize the flame of faith in their life. It lights the way.



At the end of the ceremony you will be given a certificate to keep as a remembrance of the occasion. Your child's name will be recorded in the parish register. They will be asked for the certificate on a number of occasions throughout their life for example prior to their Eucharist or Confirmation.