



Parishes of  
Greystones  
& Kilquade

**“ONE LORD,  
ONE FAITH,  
ONE BAPTISM”**

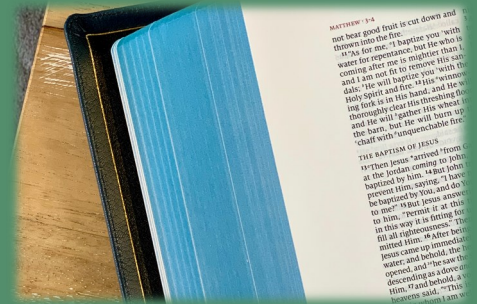
**CELEBRATING THE  
SACRAMENT OF  
BAPTISM**

# CELEBRATING THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Congratulations on the arrival of your new baby!

Our parish community joins you in thanking God for the gift of new life. The birth of your child is a very special joy for you and the Church is glad to share this joy with you.

Every parent wants the best for their child. The birth of your baby causes you to pause and reflect on what you hope for this new life entrusted to you. For Catholics this hope is expressed in baptism and the invitation it offers your child to share in the life and Spirit of God. As parents, you are the first and most important teachers of your child's faith and spirituality. You nourish God's gift of faith in your child and make it come alive for them by living and sharing your faith with them. Your child will be carried to the baptismal font by your faith. The following are some guidelines to help you to prepare to make this step in faith.



## WHAT IS CELEBRATED IN BAPTISM?

It is through this sacrament of baptism that we receive the Holy Spirit and become members of the People of God, of the Body of Christ, which is the Church. Baptism becomes our commitment to strive to grow to spiritual maturity during our life. Baptism is the first step of Christian initiation; full communion is celebrated with the sacraments of the Eucharist and Confirmation.

## WHAT DOES BAPTISM ASK OF YOU AS PARENTS?

There are specific requirements in Canon Law for parents and godparents who are preparing for the celebration of their child's Baptism. Canon 868 pp1.2. states:

- "there must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion...."

The commentary goes on to state:

- "The parents' desire for their child's baptism is evidenced by their own practice of the faith and by the fact that they do not view baptism as a mere social or cultural event."

Simply put, it means that parents are expected to live their faith by the witness they give on a daily basis and by gathering with the worshipping community for Sunday Mass which helps to nourish and sustain faith.

The priests of the Parish of Greystones and Kilquade want the baptism of your child to be a truly memorable and sacred celebration.

*This booklet offers information and guidelines regarding the celebration of baptism in the Parishes of Greystones and Kilquade.*

# BAPTISMAL PLANNING

The programme we invite you to take part in spans a period of three months in advance of the Baptism and a life time beyond that.

Our hope is that this programme will enhance both the preparation and celebration of your child's baptism and their welcome into the Christian community.

Your preparation has already begun, as evidenced by the fact that you are considering bringing your child forward for Baptism.

## The First Step...

Our preparation with you begins when you complete the registration form on the website. Once you have completed that, you will be directed to another form where you can book one of our scheduled ceremonies at a date and time that is available and suits your needs. Baptisms for

families living in Greystones parish take place in The Holy Rosary Church in Greystones and for families living in Kilquade parish in St. Anthony's Church in Kilcoole.

In order to complete it you will need to have a copy of your child's birth certificate. A scanned copy or photograph can be uploaded when you are completing the registration form. This is required to ensure that the details entered in the baptismal register correspond with the details on your child's birth certificate.

We will also require your contact details so a member of our Baptism Ministry can contact you within 5 working days of your completing the forms. They will talk you through the steps to preparing for the Sacrament itself. They will be able to answer any questions you may have in relation to this.

You will receive details concerning the preparation meeting and the welcoming ceremony.

## Preparation Meeting

The preparation meeting takes place on the last Wednesday of each Month in the Pastoral Parish Centre, Kilian House Family Centre, Greystones. This is located beside The Holy Rosary Church. Car parking is available at the rear.

This meeting is for all parents who will have a child Baptised in a particular month. You, therefore, will meet with other parents there. Please note that the Godparents of your child are very welcome to attend this meeting.



We encourage you to take time to discuss and consider the questions presented in the 'Questions for Baptismal Programme Session' document in advance of the meeting.

There will be three parts to the meeting and each part will involve group discussion based around the questions provided to you in the information pack

followed by feedback from the group and then some input around the theme for that part:

- Baptism. What does it mean to you?
- Faith / Community – Parents' Responsibility
- The Welcoming Ceremony – What takes place?
- Opportunity for Q & A

## The Welcoming Ceremony

The first stage of baptism will be celebrated at this Mass. The "Welcoming Ceremony" is part of the celebration of baptism in our community, it is a lovely way of introducing your child to the Christian community which they will belong to and become a part of, as they grow in their faith. It takes place at the Sunday morning Mass on the second Sunday of the month before your child is to be baptised. As well as presenting your child to the community to be welcomed, your child will also be anointed on the heart at this time. Godparents of your child and other family members are very welcome to come to this ceremony.

## Baptism Dates

Baptism ceremonies take place on different dates in churches in the pastoral area:

- St. Anthony's Church: 2nd & 4th Sundays @ 1:30pm
- The Holy Rosary Church: 1st & 3rd Sundays at 1pm.

## Time of the Ceremony

On the day, please arrive at the church 15 mins before the ceremony begins. This gives time to meet people, the baptismal team and the priest. It gives time to get organised so the ceremony will begin on time.



# BAPTISM - A SACRED CEREMONY

Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as sons and daughters of God: we become members of Christ, are incorporated into the Church and made shares in her mission:

“Baptism is the sacrament of regeneration through water in the word.”  
An insight into the significance of the symbols used in baptism is below.

## Baptismal Promises

During the ceremony you will be asked to renew your own Baptismal promises and are invited to take these promises on behalf of your child. In doing so you take on the responsibility of being your child's first teacher of the Christian faith. It is only after these promises have been made that your child is baptised in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

## Water

Brings new life and is also a sign of cleansing. The water in which your child is baptised will be blessed with the following words: “God of love and mercy, bless this water in which your children are to be reborn. May it cleanse your people and refresh the faith of your Church.”

## Baptismal Font

Baptism is seen as the doorway or entrance into the Christian community. It is why the baptismal font was often located in the porch or just inside the door of the church. Traditionally, the baptismal font also had 8 sides to it as a symbol that baptism is preparing us for the 8th day, the last and eternal day with God.

## The Role of Godparents

Godparents play an especially important role in the faith development of your child. The Godparents are there to fulfil two duties:

1. To accept responsibility to help the parents to raise the child in faith.
2. As representatives of the universal Church, Godparents become “faith ambassadors” for your child.

Godparents should not be chosen just out of family expectations or pressures. Since the role of the God-

parents is to be a presence, specifically a spiritual presence, in a child's life the Church itself has guidelines for Godparents. These are not a judgement on other people, but rather a way to ensure that a child baptised into the Catholic Church has a Godparent who is committed to their role and a good Christian witness to your child who will help to pass on the Christian faith to them. As long as there is one Catholic Godparent, there can be a non-Catholic, baptised godparent of another Christian denomination, who will be known as a "Christian Witness".

## Baptismal Shawl

After baptism your child will be wrapped in a white shawl provided by you. It symbolises a new life in Christ and being embraced by God's Love.

## The Baptism Candle

The Paschal Candle is lit for the Baptism ceremony. This light symbolises Christ, the Risen Lord, who overcame the cross and rose to new life. It is a symbol of hope! A smaller Baptism Candle is lit from the Easter Candle. This light, love and hope of Jesus is being passed on to the new Christian through you the parents.

## Anointing with Chrism Oil

After your child is baptised, they will be anointed with Chrism oil on the crown of the head signifying the new dignity they have received in baptism. It symbolically acts as setting a seal on their promise to follow the Lord.

## Baptismal Certificate

A copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate will be forwarded after your child's baptism. Please keep this safely as proof may be required at a later stage.

**Donation:** Our parish is totally funded by the generosity of the members of its community. It's through your donations that we are able to financially run our parish. If you are not contributing to the Parish Offering Scheme, please consider joining as we need your help to support the financial running of the parish. It is usual to offer a donation to the parish on the day of your child's baptism. It helps towards the running costs of the church and the wages of the priests of the parish and diocese. Thank you for the support and commitment to your parish.

Further enquiries may be directed to [baptisms@gkpastoralarea.ie](mailto:baptisms@gkpastoralarea.ie) or phone 01 287 4025. Thank-you.