

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How soon can I have my child's Baptism?

To allow time for the Preparation Meeting and necessary paperwork it normally takes about four weeks from first enquiry to ceremony, though this will depend on lots of factors.

How much does it cost?

There is no charge for Baptism at St Mary's, though normally a collection is taken at the end of the service.

Will my child be the only one being baptised?

Probably not! We have so many Baptisms at St Mary's and only a limited number of Saturdays. We baptise up to four children at any one ceremony.

How many guests can I have?

We set a limit of about 50 guests per family per ceremony, so that there is room for each family's guests.

I'm Catholic but my partner's not: can we still have a Baptism?

Yes, so long as your partner agrees! Your child will be baptised into your Catholic faith, and you will make the relevant promises.

I don't live in Radcliffe: can I have a Baptism here?

Baptisms should normally take place in your own Parish Church, but can take place elsewhere with the permission of your Parish Priest.

I'm not baptised: can I be baptised with my baby?

Adult Baptism is very different from baptising a baby! If you are interested in being baptised as an adult please see the sheet "About Becoming a Catholic" available in the porch.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

Please contact the Parish Office to collect a Baptism Application pack: when you have filled in the form and obtained the required certificates contact the Office again to book into the Preparation meeting. All parents must attend a Preparation Meeting, at which you will be able to book your child's Baptism date. Meetings take place every month of the year

Baptisms at Saint Mary's are celebrated at 12.30 p.m. on certain designated Saturdays throughout the year.

For further details, questions or information, please contact the Parish Priest or the Parish Office at
Saint Mary and Saint Philip Neri,
Belgrave Street
Radcliffe
MANCHESTER
M26 4DG

OFFICE HOURS
Tuesday–Friday
9.00 a.m.–12.00 noon

Phone: 0161 724 1765
Email: radcliffecatholic@tiscali.co.uk
www.radcliffecatholic.org



BAPTISM





The beginnings of baptism

Our Baptism begins with Jesus. The bible tells us that he himself was baptised by John the Baptist in the River Jordan: by being baptised in water, Jesus invites us to see this sacrament as our opportunity to be united with him – to truly become part of him. In all the centuries since, whether in rivers or lakes, in cathedrals or chapels, the Church has used holy water in Baptism to unite its members to Christ, normally at the very beginning of their lives. The Catholic Church has always recommended that children are baptised as soon as possible after birth. In Baptism we become something new—children of God and brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ!

A majority of people in this country state that they believe in God and in life after death, but only a small minority practise their faith in a Church. In many ways it is easier to believe in God as a being far removed from ourselves, than to believe in a Church - which is apparently a human institution, with all the flaws and failings of any human organization. At the very heart of Christianity is the belief that God is NOT distant: at Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, who we be-

lieve is “God made human”. God came to share our humanity, to live as we live, facing the same joys and sorrows, successes and failures, and especially the same temptations as we do. God did this to give us a great gift: hope that life can be better, that we can be complete, that our world can be a better place.

This is what Jesus showed us in his miracles. It is wrong that people go hungry, so he fed a crowd of 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish; it is wrong that people’s lives are blighted by leprosy and paralysis, so he healed the sick; and it is wrong that death brings such sadness into our world, so Jesus raised the dead back to life. Most people would see the way of life that Jesus showed and taught as being a good thing, making the world a better place, even though sometimes it is challenging and makes demands of us.

Jesus attracted followers. Some of these apostles and disciples had their names recorded. Many more did not. But together they made up the first “Church” –a word which simply means a group of people sharing the same way of life. Even from the beginning some of them got it right, some of them got it wrong. From day one the Church has had sinners as well as saints! But what bound them together was the same belief: that Jesus, the Son of God, had taught them how to live. As the centuries have rolled by lots of things have changed: the Catholic Church now numbers over a billion people throughout the world; we have our own buildings, we have bishops and nuns and all sorts of traditions and customs. But the heart of the Catholic Church is still following the way of Jesus.

REQUIREMENTS FOR INFANT BAPTISM



At least one of the parents must be a baptised Roman Catholic.

A child must be baptised in the Parish where they live.

A child being baptised must have at least one practising Roman Catholic godparent.

Parents and Godparents must be willing to bring their child up in the practice of their faith.



GODPARENTS

Godparents must be baptised Christians over the age of 16, and as it says above each child MUST have at least one practising Roman Catholic godparent. It is recommended that you have two godparents for each child, but there is no hard and fast rule on this. Godparents must be willing to work with parents and the Church to help bring the child up with a knowledge of their Catholic faith—being willing, for example, to assist parents in bringing the child to Church as they grow up.

