

# PREPARING FOR BAPTISM

## **St Benedict's Church & St Monica's Church**



Baptism Information Leaflet  
Updated January 2021

**Congratulations** firstly on the birth of your child and secondly on your decision to have your child Baptised as a member of our Faith Community. We, the priests and people of the parish welcome you and your child among us. Baptism is the 'Sacrament of Initiation'. It is the first of the Sacraments and the other six can only be received after you have been baptised.

## **Parents' Responsibilities**

The children are baptised at the request of parents because they wish their child to become a member of the Community of the Church, this means: that you, the parents, undertake to

- Raise your child in the practice of the faith
- teach them to pray;
- bring them to Mass regularly
- read sacred scriptures to them and with them so they know Jesus Christ is.
- Be with them and encourage them on their journey of faith

As a parish we want to support you in all of these challenges and make sure you don't feel alone. Resources are available from the Church shop. We also invite you to attend Mass which is celebrated at 10:30am St Monica's & 11:30am St Benedict's each Sunday. The Mass is family friendly and you will feel right at home here.

***To arrange your child's Baptism please complete the Baptism Request Form which is available on the parish website <https://stbenedicts-stmonicas.ie> at least two months in advance.***

## **The Celebration**

The Rite of Baptism contains a wonderful sequence of movement, symbols and gestures. It begins with welcoming your child into the Church, proceeds with the Word of God, moves to the font and concludes with a blessing.



## **At the Ambo – Word of God**

The people turn to where the Word of God is proclaimed, to listen to the readings and to pray together. The Word of God is an ongoing source of nourishment for all of us on our faith journey.



## **At the Font – Anointing and Baptism**

Before Baptism the priest prays to God to protect the children from evil and then anoints them. The baptismal water is blessed. Parents/guardians and godparents profess their faith in Christ. The children are then baptised.

## **Accompanying Rites – Symbols and Actions**

A series of gestures follow. These are joyful ways of expressing what we mean by baptism. Each child is anointed on the head with the oil of Chrism. The children are clothed with a white garment and their Baptismal candles are lit from the Easter candle. Finally, the priest prays over each child that they may come to hear and proclaim the Gospel.



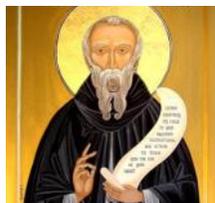
## **Final Blessing**

All join in praying the Our Father and this is followed by blessings for the parents/godparents and all present. We look forward to the future celebrations of their First Eucharist (First Holy Communion) and Confirmation that will bring these children to full membership of the Church.

## **Days and Times for Baptism:**

The last Saturday of every month @ 11am in St Benedict's & 12pm in St Monica's  
Please be sure to arrive 15 mins before the ceremony begins & make sure to have with you:

- your child's Baptismal candle
- The white shawl to wrap around your child during the ceremony



## Godparents

Godparents must be baptised and confirmed Catholics who are committed to sharing their faith with their godchild. Each child should have two godparents, one Godfather and one Godmother. It is permitted for a baptised non-Catholic to act as a “witness” (instead of one godparent).

## Booking & Registration

The Baptism Request Form is available on the parish website <https://stbenedicts-stmonicas.ie> and should be completed with approx. 2 months notice.

The name of the child will be entered in the Baptismal Register in the same form as in the Civil Register. The Parish Secretary will confirm all such details with you before completing the entry in the parish’s Baptismal Register.

At the time of booking your baptism the suggested offering is €50, this is divided equally between the Archdiocese & the celebrant of the Baptism.

## A Family Prayer

*Loving God, we ask your blessing on our family. Watch over us and guide us. Make our home a place of love and safety, a place of peace and joy, a place where we grow in faith together. We make this our prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen*



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**Email: [info@stbenedicts-stmonicas.ie](mailto:info@stbenedicts-stmonicas.ie)**

**Website: [stbenedicts-stmonicas.ie](https://stbenedicts-stmonicas.ie)**