



St Michael's Cathedral

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BAPTISM POLICY

Dear Parents & Godparents,

Your child's baptism is an extremely important moment. It is the sacrament (a visible sign, which communicates invisible grace) which brings them into relationship with God in the Church. Thank you for bringing your child to this beautiful moment in their lives.

It is important to know that this is not just a 'milestone' or a way of getting your child a place in Catholic School. This is the beginning of a relationship with God and his Church. An important part of establishing this relationship are the promises you will take on behalf of your children. You will promise to teach your child that God loves them, how to be open to receiving that love, the importance of loving and worshipping God as he has asked in Scripture and the fundamentals of catholic doctrine.

With this in mind, we ask you to adhere to the following policy which is derived from the Code of Canon Law (CIC):

1. If you have not had a child baptised before you must attend a session of baptism preparation at St Michael's Cathedral.
2. At least one of the parents of the child/children to be baptised must be Catholic (CIC 868 § 2)
3. Godparents must be Catholic. However, you may have people who are not Catholic as chosen witnesses to the baptism. These people will be listed on the baptismal certificates.
4. Godparents must be at least 16 years of age, must have received Holy Communion and must have received Confirmation. (CIC 874 §1.2, §1.3)
5. Godparents cannot be the mother or father of the child. (CIC 874 §1.5)
6. For each child there is to be only one male Godparent, or one female Godparent, or one of each. (CIC 873)
7. Parents and Godparents must provide baptismal and confirmation certificates as proof of baptism and confirmation.

This policy takes effect for all Baptisms from 10 March 2024.

Fr Sean Byrnes
Cathedral Administrator