

**BAPTISMS at
St Chad's Cheadle, St Ann's Cheadle Hulme, Christ Church Heald Green**

Frequently asked questions

Do both parents need to be Catholic?

The Catholic Church requires that both parents of the child be Catholic to request a baptism. An exception may be made if at least one of the parents is a practicing Catholic committed to forming the child in the faith and teaching of the Church.

Will I need to provide proof of Baptism?

Yes, you will need to provide a copy of your baptism certificate prior to the baptism and ideally send before attending the preparation course. These can be requested from your church of baptism.

What if I am not a Catholic?

There is a requirement for at least one parent to be Catholic in order to baptise any children. If you are not a Catholic why not think about learning about the Catholic faith. You could join the RCIA group in September with no initial commitment to enter into the Catholic Church. We are here to help whatever your decision.

Why should I baptise my child?

If you have been married in a Catholic Church you will have made certain promises regarding the upbringing of your child in the faith during the wedding service and these are not to be taken lightly. They are your responsibilities.

What should I do if I don't know enough about the Catholic Faith?

If you do not feel knowledgeable enough about your faith why not join the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) group that commences each September or speak with the parish priest.

When should I baptise my child?

The Church encourages baptism to take place as soon after the birth as possible. Children can only be baptised under the infant rite (where parents make the commitment on their behalf) up to the age of 7

What if my child is 7 years or older?

According to church law, children aged 7 and above need to receive their own instruction and time of preparation to receive the sacrament of baptism. Whilst parents will still need to attend our preparation course, the child will need to participate in our Sacramental Programme which will prepare them for Baptism, First Forgiveness and First Holy Communion.

Do I need to live in the parish?

Baptisms are normally done in the parish where the child resides. To be baptised outside of the parish requires written permission from the parish priest where you live.

Do I need to attend Mass?

To baptise a child brings a serious commitment before God to raise the child in the practice of the Catholic faith. With this in mind, we would strongly encourage regular attendance at Mass and expect to see you at Mass from now on.

How can you bring your child up in the faith?

- a) Pray with your children – read bible stories, recite the rosary, say a prayer before bed.
- b) Don't let your home become a spiritual desert, educate as the church does.
- c) Bring your children to Mass every Sunday

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When are the preparations sessions?

These take place on the first Thursday of the month and are held in the parish rooms at St Ann's, Vicarage Avenue, Cheadle Hulme, SK8 7JW at 7pm-8pm. Please book a space by emailing stannscheadlehulme@gmail.com. You only need to attend one session.

Who needs to attend the preparation session?

It is a requirement for both parents to attend the preparation session. You are welcome to bring your child/children with you, but this is not essential. It is also possible for parents to attend different sessions, as long as both have been to a session before the baptism takes place.

Do Godparents need to be Catholic?

Godparents must be confirmed Catholics. Persons you may choose from other Christian denominations would be Christian witnesses and must be over sixteen years of age. Christian Witnesses are not recorded either in the baptismal register or the baptismal certificate.

Will Godparents need to provide proof of baptism?

Yes, they will need to provide a copy of their baptism certificate prior to the baptism. Their church of baptism will be able to provide a copy of this if needed.

How many Godparents can I have?

You need at least one Godparent (who can either be male or female) and a maximum of Two Godparents - one Godfather and one Godmother. It is not possible to have two Godparents of the same gender.

What is the role of Godparents?

Godparents have a specific role and it is to support you in the instruction of the faith to your children. Atheists and non-Christians are not suitable for Godparents. Why? Because they will have to make certain promises to God and to do so without the intention of carrying out these duties, would be a mockery of the faith.

When do Baptisms take place?

All baptisms are carried out on a Saturday, and take place on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month as follows:

11.30am at St Chad's, 1.30pm at Christ Church, 3.00 pm at St. Ann's.

When can I book a date for the baptism?

Once you have attended the preparation course, we will contact you with availability for the baptism.

How many baptisms are there during a service?

We have a maximum of two families per service (in some cases there may be more than two children). However, due to capacity of our churches, if you are expecting a large number of people to attend the service, please let us know when arranging the date for your baptism so that we can factor that into our availability.

How long is the service?

The baptism is a service, not a Mass, lasting approximately 20-30 minutes.

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Can I or family/friends read during the service?

Yes, there is the opportunity for people to read during the service. This will be arranged by the priest on the day.

What do I need to bring to the service?

You will need to make sure that you bring a white garment (eg shawl/blanket) with you to be used during the service. We will provide the baptismal candle.

What time do I need to arrive on the day of the baptism?

We ask parents and Godparents, and anyone who would like to read, to arrive at the Church 15 minutes before the baptism. We ask that all guests are in their places 5mins before the service so that the service can begin on time.

Is there a fee for the service?

Sacraments in the church are free, however it is customary to make a donation to the church at the time of baptism. The suggested donation is £50.

If you have any other questions or would like to discuss any of the above information please speak to Victoria 07905 519322.