**The Sacrament of Baptism at Christ Church, Heald Green**

It is wonderful that you are requesting baptism for your child!

Through baptism we are reborn as children of God and become members of Christ.

We hope you will be regular member of our Sunday Mass community.

**Step 1** - Please introduce yourself to the Parish Priest after Sunday Mass before beginning the process of organising a baptism. If you have not been attending Mass each Sunday, then now is the time to begin as you will make solemn promises to raise your child in the Catholic faith through worship and by teaching them to keep the commandments, by loving God and others. It is necessary that at least one of the parents of the child due to be baptised is Catholic. Your child’s baptism can serve as a time for you to return to Mass leading by example. By Church law, the Parish Priest must have a reasonable hope that the parents intend to raise their child in the Catholic faith. You are members of the family of God and belong with us. Being present with the community each Sunday is a commitment that requires prioritising until it becomes a normal part of your weekly rhythm. Like anything worthwhile, honouring the Lord's Day with thanksgiving at Mass will give added value to your life and eternities. Once you have attended the preparation course, the Parish Priest will be able to pass onto you a baptism booking form as, due to high volume, we do not correspond via email regarding baptisms.

**Step 2** - We ask parents to attend one baptism preparation session. These sessions are held at 7pm on the first Thursday of each month at St Ann’s Catholic Church in Cheadle Hulme.

**It is necessary to book on the preparation session by emailing** **stannscheadlehulme@gmail.com**

The St Ann’s website may have more information under the heading ‘Sacraments.’

**Step 3** – Once you have attended the baptism preparation session, then please ask the Parish Priest at Sunday Mass for the booking form. Once complete, please return this form to the priest or office. Please do not email or post the form.

Baptisms take place on the 2nd and 4th (and 5th) Sundays of the month at 12.15pm.

Please choose one or two godparents; at least one must be a practicing Catholic. You are welcome to have other people with the godparents as Christian witnesses, and they can have the same role as godparents at the baptism service. If you want to look further into what the Church asks regarding godparents, then you can discover more at this website: <https://www.scripturecatholic.com/the-roles-and-requirements-of-a-catholic-godparent-and-confirmation-sponsor/>

In your invitations to the baptism, please ask all guests to be considerate of neighbours when parking. Please ask guests to avoid blocking driveways or parking on grass verges. If possible, please park on the Church grounds where there is generally plenty of space.

If your child is over the age of 7, then they would need some instruction in the faith before receiving the Sacraments of Baptism, Forgiveness, and First Holy Communion.

**Step 4** - We will then get in touch with you to confirm the requested date of baptism or, if baptisms are booked up, we may ask you to change the requested date. Christ Church, 2023