

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
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PARENTS ' APPLICATION FOR BAPTISM OF INFANTS

Dear Parents and Godparents,

BAPTISM as you should know is a Sacrament. As such, it is a 'sacred event' in the life of your child. It is a 'sacred event' because in Baptism the child participates in the life, death and resurrection of Christ Jesus. St Paul tells us in his Letter to the Romans: *"For surely you know this when we were baptized into the union with Jesus Christ, we were baptized into union with his death. By our Baptism, then, we were baptized with him and shared his death, in order that, just as Christ was risen from death by the glorious power of the Father, so also we might live a new life."* (Rom 6:3-5).

It is important, therefore, that you bring your child for baptism and on its behalf are going to answer the questions put to you by the Church in the name of Christ. You should prepare yourselves to participate in the sacred ceremony with understanding and reverence due to this sacrament. **And this requires on your part a spiritual preparation. It is important and necessary that you attend the Pre-Baptism instructions in order to prepare yourselves.**

Because of the sacred nature of the Sacrament of Baptism, the Church has laid certain conditions on which the Sacrament of Baptism should be celebrated. Briefly, the conditions are: [a] that the Parents and Godparents are practicing Catholics; [b] that they come to Mass and receive the Sacraments; [c] that they are capable of teaching and bringing up their children in the knowledge and practice of the faith; [d] and their own way of life is a living example of their faith-life in Christ. It is also important that the Godparents are such people that they can closely follow the child in his/her formation in the faith. When these conditions are present they render the answers given by the Parents and Godparents to the questions put to them by the Church, truthful, meaningful and sincere. It is only right that we approach God in truthfulness and sincerity. (Please turn overleaf)

We Parents, wish to make an application for Baptism on behalf of our son/daughter as follows:

NAME OF CHILD (as on Birth Certificate):

CHILD'S CHRISTIAN NAME: B/C NO:

DATE OF BIRTH: PLACE OF BIRTH: GENDER:

FATHER'S NAME (as on I/C):

FATHER'S CHRISTIAN NAME: H/P NO:

CHURCH OF BAPTISM: Date:

MOTHER'S NAME (as on I/C):

MOTHER'S CHRISTIAN NAME: H/P NO:

CHURCH OF BAPTISM: Date:

PARENTS' MARRIED IN THE CHURCH OF: Date:

PARENTS' PRESENT ADDRESS:

.....

GODFATHER'S NAME:

GODMOTHER'S NAME:

The Baptism will take place at the **Church of the Good Shepherd** on: Date: Time:

and the Pre-Baptism instructions for **Parents** and **Godparents** on: Date: Time:

.....
(Signature of Father)

.....
(Signature of Mother)

PARENTS' MINISTRY

Your child will learn from you how to live in a family, among friends and in his new relationship with God. Your child will understand that Christian life is special when he sees your love of God manifested in your continuing effort to know **HIM** in your daily lives.

Baptism is a gift of life, free from original sin, and communicates a share in the life of Christ, as a member of His Mystical Body. Parents must assume their responsibility and give the assurance that this gift can grow by an authentic education in the faith and practice of Christian life. If these assurances are not serious and, if parents appear to have little faith and practice their religion only occasionally, then there can be grounds for delaying the sacrament.

GODPARENTS' MINISTRY

Godparents must be practicing Catholics. They need not be close relatives (grandparents, brothers/sisters of parents). Godparents exercise their ministry during the celebration of the sacrament in a number of ways:-

- **accompanying the child to the church and home afterwards;**
- **pledging to help the spiritual growth of the child;**
- **signing the child's forehead with the cross;**
- **joining parents in the renunciation of sin and profession of faith.**

In addition, the godparents have a continuing ministry that lasts until the child has reached adulthood. Very often this aspect of their ministry is forgotten or neglected.

At Baptism, the Minister asks godparents: "***Are you ready to help these parents in their duty as Christian fathers and mothers?***" Godparents respond: "***We are.***" In the context this '**help**' clearly goes beyond the celebration. It includes the whole process of raising a Christian child. It is not the intention of the Church that they assume responsibility of raising and supporting the child in any way. A simple suggestion is that besides remembering the child in their daily prayers, godparents visit the child occasionally at the anniversary of his/her Baptism; frequent contacts at Sunday Masses, to show in a concrete way the care and concern they still have, even many years after Baptism.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Acknowledgement by BEC Leader:

Remarks: Please tick (✓) Attends BEC gatherings [] Invited to BEC gatherings []

.....

Name of BEC Leader:

BEC: Zone:

.....
Date	Signature



2. If parents **do not** belong to the Parish of the Good Shepherd, this application form need to be counter-signed by the **Parish Priest** of their Parish.

No objections from Rev

Parish:

.....
(Date)	(Signature)

3. Godparents are required to be **practicing Catholics**. They need not be close relatives.

NOTE: This form has to be submitted together with a photocopy of:
1. Child's Birth Certificate; 2. Parents' Church Wedding Certificate

(For Parish Register) Baptized on:

Minister of Baptism: