



Registration Form for the Sacrament of Baptism

Child's Name	
Date of birth	
Parents' Names (Maiden name)	
Address	
Phone Number	
Email Address	
God-parents	
Proposed date of baptism	
Time	Sunday, 12:00 noon
Permission granted	(for those not residents in this Parish)
Parish email address	sh.henley@rcaob.org.uk

PRAY: If you are thinking of becoming Catholic, it is possibly because the Holy Spirit is trying to say something to your heart. Talk to God, ask Him to help you in your life, ask Him to help your faith to grow.

COME TO MASS: See how we celebrate our faith and pray together. Sunday Mass is especially important for Catholics because we gather as a community of faith to worship God together. Non-Catholics are not able to receive Holy Communion but are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicating this by placing your arm across your chest.

But remember you don't have to sign up to everything all at once. You can make a discreet enquiry by speaking with Fr Paul.

Masses with Children

At Sacred Heart Church, we celebrate Masses with children on a regular basis. We also have an excellent Children's liturgy, to which your child would be very welcome. There are several younger families who would be pleased to welcome you at Mass. Don't worry if your child cries, we are very considerate to younger families. Mass is celebrated at Sacred Heart School on Wednesday's at 9.00am. Parents and parishioners are very welcome.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
31 Vicarage Road
Henley on Thames RG9 1HT
01491 573 258

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Henley on Thames



Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism

This leaflet gives a brief introduction to the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism, and answers the following questions:

- What is Baptism about?
- How do I get my baby baptised?
- What if my child is older?
- What about godparents?
- How does an adult go about getting baptised?

What is Baptism about?

Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit, and the door which gives access to the other sacraments. Through Baptism we are freed from sin and reborn as children of God; we become members of Christ, we are incorporated into the Church and made sharers in her mission.

(Catechism of the Catholic Church)

Families come in all shapes and sizes and children are a special blessing. Our parish seeks to make everyone welcome and to provide support and encouragement to parents preparing to have their children baptised.

Your child is a gift from God, which enriches your life and creates the joy of family life. By baptism your child will become part of our parish family, and a member of the Catholic Church, calling God, 'Our Father'. This is because your child has become a child of God, united with Jesus Christ.

What next?

You can begin to make arrangements by:

- Completing the application on the back this form. These are the details we require for our baptismal registers.
- Please return the form to the Parish Office, or:
sh.henley@rcaob.org.uk
- Choose a date, (2 choices are best)
- Choosing your godparents.

Baptisms normally take place on a Sunday at 12.00 pm. However, it is possible to have your child baptised during the 10.30am Sunday Mass.

Godparents

Because you are asking for your child to be baptised as a Catholic, it is important that you nominate at least one godparent who is a practicing Catholic as a real help to you and the

child in the development of a life of faith in the years ahead. Given the words they are expected to speak in the promises and acts of faith that are part of the service; it would be disrespectful to the integrity of those who have no faith in God to nominate them as godparents. There are other ways in which they can and will support you and your child.

What if my child is older?

If your child is not yet at school, we follow the procedure detailed above. Once the child is old enough to have some understanding of baptism, then the child will need to be prepared for the sacrament.

If your child is in Year 3 or above, then we would normally recommend that the child join the First Holy Communion programme and that the baptism take place as part of this journey of faith. If your child is in Year 6 or above, then we would recommend joining the Confirmation preparation programme.

For more information please contact Fr Paul. Leaflets about Eucharist (Communion) and Confirmation are available in the church.

Visit our Website

You will find much more information on our website, which includes dates of Mass at Sacred Heart School and other leaflets

<https://www.sacredhearthenley.co.uk>

How does an adult go about getting baptised?

If you have been thinking about becoming a Catholic, we want to help you explore your thoughts a little further in a way that respects your personality, your life story, your questions and your enthusiasms.

A wonderful experience awaits if you have never been baptised. You will be introduced to the treasure of the scriptures, our core beliefs, the sacraments, and prayer. You will choose a sponsor to be a true friend and companion on your journey of faith and to stand by your side every step of the way.

As Easter approaches, if you are confident that you want to take the next step you may be invited to take part in a celebration at St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham when you will meet people with the same desire from other parishes of the diocese and be formally invited by the bishop to prepare for Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

Those who have already been baptised and who have taken an active part in the life of another Christian community will be asked to make a renewed act of faith before being Confirmed and receiving the Eucharist.

What Do I Do Next?

If you are thinking about becoming Catholic, you might be thinking what shall I do next? overleaf are a few suggestions that you might like to consider.