



Roman Catholic Diocese of Armidale  
**Sacred Heart Parish Inverell**

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## BAPTISM REQUEST FORM

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF INVERELL IS  
VERY HAPPY THAT YOU HAVE DECIDED TO  
PLAN FOR YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISM

*Baptism*

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US OR  
COME TO SEE US.

## GUIDELINES FOR BAPTISM IN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

As you are seeking the baptism of your child in the Roman Catholic Church, the following guidelines are presented to help you embark upon this journey of faith with Jesus Christ and His Church.

### A. The Sanctifying Role of the Church

**(Code of Canon Law, c. 842-849; Catechism of the Catholic Church 1213, 1263, 1265, 1267-1270)**

Through Baptism, God enables us to participate in His life in Jesus Christ and makes us His children. It is through this Sacrament that we receive the Holy Spirit and become members of the People of God, of the Body of Christ, which is the Church. Baptism becomes our commitment to grow in this new life and to strive to acquire spiritual maturity. By baptism, God purifies us from sin.

### B. Basic Guidelines and Information for Infant Baptism

**(Code of Canon Law, cc. 857, 867-868, 872-874; Catechism of the Catholic Church 1251-1255)**

Before the infant is baptised, the parents and godparents are questioned about their faith:

- ***Do you reject Satan and all that is evil?***
- ***Do you believe in God, the Father? Do you believe in Jesus Christ? Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?***
- ***Do you believe in the holy, Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?***

**PARENTS** are responsible for bringing their child to the Sacrament of Baptism as soon after birth as possible. Except in case of necessity, the church is the usual place of baptism. In order that a child be baptised, it is necessary that the parents' consent, or at least one of them, or someone legally standing in their place, and that there is reasonable hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic faith. Parents solemnly promise to bring their children up in the Catholic faith. They undertake the responsibility of teaching their child to know, love and pray to God. This involves bringing the child to Mass and preparing the child for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation. It is a solemn promise made to God, and *before a child is baptised, parents must agree to accept their responsibilities.*

**GODPARENTS:** A person may only have one or two godparents (also called sponsors); if two are chosen, one must be male and one must be female. In order for someone to be eligible as a godparent they must be chosen by the parents, have the ability and the intention to fulfill the role, be at least 16 years of age, and be a confirmed Roman Catholic, who has already received the Most Holy Eucharist, is leading a life in harmony with the Catholic Faith and will be a good role model for the one being baptised., and be neither the father or mother of the child. A baptised member of another non-Catholic Christian community may act as a Christian witness together with a Catholic sponsor. A non-baptised person cannot be a witness.

### C. Baptismal Preparation in your Parish

**(Code of Canon Law, c. 851; Catechism of the Catholic Church 843)**

Open yourself to the invitation to actively join the faith community of your Parish. If you are not registered parishioners, please consider becoming involved in the prayer and celebration of the Sunday Eucharistic community. You will be invited to participate in a baptismal preparation session for parents.

It is extremely important to take your faith life seriously because, before God, you have taken on an awesome responsibility for the soul of another person – your own child! Your commitment and openness to baptismal preparation will help develop the faith life of your child as he/she matures.

**Offering:** it is appropriate that an offering be made prior to the occasion of Baptism. We kindly ask for a donation of **\$120**.

**Candle and white garment:** A baptismal candle and a white garment will be used in the ceremony. Parents are asked to provide the baptismal candle, if they cannot obtain one, the Church will provide one for use during the Sacrament of baptism

## BAPTISM REQUEST DETAILS

### Sacred Heart Parish, Inverell

Proposed date of Baptism: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

*(This is subject to availability and will be confirmed when presenting this completed form to the Parish Office)*

### CANDIDATE DETAILS

*(these must be the same as on their birth certificate)*

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Christian Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Place of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: Male/Female

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*Please note: if you do not live within the boundaries of the Sacred Heart Parish Inverell, permission must be obtained from the Parish priest where you live.**

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any separation, divorce and/or formal parenting orders concerning the child receiving the Sacrament of Baptism?  No  Yes ... if yes please complete over page

### GODPARENT DETAILS

*(see conditions on previous page; nominate 2 names, only 2 names will appear in the register and certificate)*

Godfather \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

Godmother \_\_\_\_\_ Religion: \_\_\_\_\_

### CONSENTS

I give permission for my child's Baptism details to be given to the Parish school  Yes  No

By signing this form, I hereby give my consent for my child to be admitted to the Sacrament of Baptism.

Father's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Officiating minister: \_\_\_\_\_

## PARENTAL AUTHORITY FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

In matters of separation or divorce, the Family Law Court of Australia considers that for a child to be recognised in any religion, the decision is to be made by the parent with parental responsibility. More often than not, the Court will provide for both parents to have equal shared parental responsibility unless it is not in the best interests of the child to do so. If there are no Court orders, then it is presumed that both parents have equal shared parental responsibility.

Thus, unless the Court orders that one parent has sole parental responsibility, the consent of both parents needs to be obtained in the absence of a specific Court order, for the child/ren to receive the Catholic Sacraments. A copy of any Court orders concerning residence arrangements for the Candidate, time spent by the Candidate with either parent, or parenting issues must be supplied with this Application Form.

If there is no Court Order in place and one parent is unable to be located a signed statutory declaration is required from the parent requesting baptism of the child, stating that every effort has been made to secure consent of both parties and the circumstances preventing such consent being obtained.

Are there any such orders?  Yes  No  
 Has a copy of every Order been attached to this Baptismal Request Form  Yes  No

For pastoral reasons could you please inform us:

Is the father's name to be placed on the Baptismal Certificate?  Yes  No  
 Will the father be attending the Baptism?  Yes  No  
 Is the mother's name to be placed on the Baptismal Certificate?  Yes  No  
 Will the mother be attending the Baptism?  Yes  No

I hereby give my consent for my child to be admitted to the Sacrament of Baptism

Father's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please attach a scanned copy of the father's ID (e.g. Drivers Licence, passport, government issued ID Card)*

Mother's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Please attach a scanned copy of the mother's ID (e.g. Drivers Licence, passport, government issued ID Card)*

PARISH OFFICE USE ONLY	
Checklist item	Date Received
<input type="checkbox"/> Baptismal Request Form	..... / ..... / .....
<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Birth Certificate of the Child	..... / ..... / .....
<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Baptismal Certificate of the Catholic Parent	..... / ..... / .....
<input type="checkbox"/> Have attended the Baptismal Preparation course on	..... / ..... / .....
<input type="checkbox"/> Offering of \$120 received	..... / ..... / .....
<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Family Law Court order(s)	..... / ..... / .....
<input type="checkbox"/> Proof of father's identity attached	..... / ..... / .....
<input type="checkbox"/> Proof of mother's identity attached	..... / ..... / .....
<input type="checkbox"/> Signed Statutory Declaration	..... / ..... / .....
<input type="checkbox"/> Details recorded in the Parish register	..... / ..... / .....
Parish Priest/Secretary Signature: _____	..... / ..... / .....
Notes: _____	