

WELCOME

The Parish Community of St. John's is very pleased to welcome you as you prepare for the baptism of your child, which we believe is a time for celebration and great joy.

Baptisms are to be arranged by the parents or legal guardians of the child/children.

At least one parent must be Catholic, with some clear commitment to the Catholic faith and practice, and a strong desire that the child will grow in their understanding of our faith.

The following dates are set aside for our **2018 Baptismal Program**.

2018	
Rite of Welcome Weekend	Baptism Sunday 12:30pm
February 3 rd / 4 th	February 11 th
March - No Baptisms (during Lent)	
* April 8 th	*April 8 th
May 5 th / 6 th	May 20 th
June 2 nd / 3 rd	June 10 th
June 30 th / July 1 st	July 8 th
August 4 th / 5 th	August 12 th
September 1 st / 2 nd	September 9 th
October 6 th / 7 th	October 14 th
November 3 rd / 4 th	November 11 th
December 1 st / 2 nd	December 9 th

*April Baptisms on 8/4/18 @ 12.30pm will include the Rite of Welcome.

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION: BELONGING

Full Christian Initiation into the life of the Catholic Church, entails the celebration of three Sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Baptism is not merely a personal event in the life of the person being baptised, nor is it a private family celebration. It is an important event in the life of the Church community into which they are being initiated.

Baptism incorporates us into the risen life of Christ, and grants us membership of the faith community.

There is a mutual responsibility involved: the worshipping community expresses its pastoral responsibility to its members, and the family accepts its responsibility by nurturing the God given faith conferred in the Sacrament.

For further information, and to discuss arrangements for a baptism, please phone or email our Parish Office. A member of our Baptismal Team will be in contact with you.

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm

Phone: 9758 1029

Email: office@stjohnthebaptist.net.au



I have come that you may have life and have it to the full (John 10:10)



Infant Baptism

at

St John the Baptist Parish
19 Forest Road,
Ferntree Gully



2018

OUR GUIDELINES



The guidelines in this pamphlet are offered in order to achieve a pastoral practice which is consistent with the Church's emphasis on belonging, and initiation into the Christian life.

The local Parish community lends its support to parish families through nurturing the faith of its new members.

"As a rule ...an adult is to be baptised in his or her proper parish church, and an infant in the proper parish church of the parents."

(Code of Canon Law n.857, §2).

Thus, children who live within the boundaries of the Parish of Ferntree Gully, and whose parents request Baptism for their child/children, will be baptised into both the local and universal Catholic community.

Those members of our community who maintain an active faith involvement, and reside outside our Parish boundaries, are asked to obtain written permission from their local Parish for their child's Baptism at St John's.

Families living outside the Parish boundaries, who have no link with our faith community, are encouraged to celebrate the baptism within their local Parish.

We are happy to introduce families to their local priest and faith community given that their child/children will most likely be attending the local Parish school and there following through with the reception of the other sacraments of initiation, namely First Eucharist and Confirmation.

ST JOHN'S BAPTISMAL PROGRAM OUTLINE

1. INITIAL CONTACT

Please contact the Parish Office with your enquiry, at least six weeks' notice is required. An appointment will be made for you to meet with a member of the Baptismal Team where you can begin practical arrangements. These include setting of dates, completion of the Application Form and information regarding the Baptismal Stole and Baptismal Candle required for the ceremony.

2. PARENT INFORMATION MEETING

"The parents of a child who is to be baptised, and those who are to undertake the office of sponsors, are to be suitably instructed on the meaning of this sacrament and the obligations attaching to it."

(Code of Canon Law n.851, §2).

Accordingly, parents are asked to organise an appointment with a member of the Parish Baptismal Team to make adequate preparations for their child's reception of the Sacrament of Baptism.

3. RITE OF WELCOME

Prior to the day of Baptism, our expectation is that parents will, with their child, participate in the Rite of Welcome at a weekend Mass. If your child is to be Baptised during a weekend Mass, then the Rite of Welcome will take place with the Baptism.

4. CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

Baptisms are ordinarily celebrated at 12:30pm on the Second Sunday of each Month (Feb-Dec) with the exception, this year (2018) of March & May,

due to the Season of Lent, and to avoid the clash with Mothers' Day, respectively. Please refer to this year's schedule, overleaf.

Families and guests are most welcome to attend the 11am Mass prior to the ceremony, as it fosters the link between the worshipping Community, Jesus Christ who is present to us in Word and Sacrament, and those to be baptised.

Parents who are regular worshippers at St John the Baptist Parish are welcome to have their children baptised at any of our weekend Masses (Saturday 6pm, Sunday 9am & 11am).

GODPARENTS (SPONSORS)

The role of the Godparent(s), together with the parents, is to help the child to live a Christian life befitting one who is baptised.

According to 'The Code of Canon Law', n.873, "one sponsor, male or female, is sufficient", but there may be two or more.

A Godparent needs to be

- at least 16 years of age.
- a Catholic who has received the Eucharist and been Confirmed.
- someone who lives his/her faith in a way which befits the role to be undertaken.

Together with a Catholic Godparent, a baptised non-Catholic may stand as a Christian Witness.

BAPTISMAL OFFERING

A customary Baptismal Offering, according to your means, is gratefully received. An envelope is provided for this purpose. Thank you.

