

The Catholic Parish of Holy Ghost, Basingstoke:
Holy Ghost Church & St. Bede's Church
Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX
Registered Charity No. 1199568
Tel. No. 01256 465214 / email: baptism@stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk

Dear Parents,

BAPTISM APPLICATION FOR INFANTS & CHILDREN UNDER 7 YEARS OLD

We are delighted that you are considering having your child Baptised. This is an important step that needs to be thought about carefully, as it means your child is becoming a Christian and they are being welcomed into the Family of God. You, as parents, are undertaking to bring up your child to know and practise their faith and the faith of the Church, until your child is old enough to gladly make that faith their own.

As parents, you have given life to your child, but birth is only the beginning. Your child still depends upon you for everything, for food, for clothes and for a loving home in which to grow. This is equally true of the Christian Life. Baptism is only the beginning, and the home is the chief training ground with parents the first teachers in the life of Faith.

When school time comes, a Catholic School will help to continue the education of your child by teaching not only the academic skills but also in assisting in preparing your child for the Sacraments by deepening their knowledge of the Catholic Faith. However, it must be said that the school is no substitute for a family where the faith is really lived and practised; a home where there is kindness, forgiveness and love; a home that recognises its need for God through prayer, through the Holy Mass and regular celebration of the Sacraments.

You will be required to attend preparation sessions which involves attending two sessions that typically take place on Sunday afternoons in St Bede's Church Hall. At the sessions we will be exploring the Sacrament of Baptism. To register your interest please complete and submit the application form on our website or email: baptism@stbedesbasingstoke.org.uk. We will then contact you with details of times and dates for the next preparation sessions. Dates for Baptisms to take place will also be discussed at the preparation sessions.

Please note that if your child is **aged 7 years or over**, you will need to contact the Parish Office to enquire about separate classes for them to attend. There are **no Baptisms during Lent**. It is also traditional for a stole fee of £30 to be offered to the minister who celebrates the Baptism. This will be discussed at the preparation sessions.

With every Blessing
Yours sincerely,

Fr John Lee

Fr John Lee
Parish Priest/Coordinating Pastor