



SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, Essendon



The below guidelines are applicable to infants and young children.

- At The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese Essendon, the Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated at a communal service with a maximum of six families. There are no private baptisms at the parish since our focus is participation in and belonging to our parish community.
- Baptisms are celebrated at 12 noon on the fourth Sunday of every month at St Therese's Church, Essendon. Baptism families are also required to attend a Welcoming Rite at 10.30am Sunday Mass on the weekend prior to Baptism at St Therese's Church.
- Baptisms are open to Catholic families living inside our parish boundaries and/or to families with children attending St Therese's school or Our Lady of the Nativity school. Families living outside our parish boundary (including former parishioners who have not maintained active involvement) should celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism within their own parish.
- Any child presented for the Sacrament of Baptism must have at least one parent who is Catholic.
- At the Parish of Our Lady and St Therese, parents who seek the Sacrament of Baptism for a child aged 4 to 5 years are required to support their child in family-led, at-home preparation prior to the Sacrament.
- Parents seeking Baptism for children over the age of 6 years (school-aged children) must meet with the parish priest before booking the Baptism.
- The Sacrament will always be celebrated in St Therese's Church and not in a private house or hospital except in exceptional circumstances.
- Godparents: One sponsor is sufficient but there may be two. Only two sponsors will be recorded in the parish Baptism register as 'Godparents' any other persons will be recorded as 'Witnesses.' The sponsor/s needs to be at least 16 years of age and to be a Baptised Catholic. A non-Catholic person can be a Godparent only in company with a Catholic sponsor.
- Baptisms will only be arranged with parents or legal guardians.
- Once a baptism application has been accepted, a member of the parish team will arrange a pastoral meeting to be held at the parish office located at 48a Lincoln Rd, Essendon. These meetings are held at the beginning of the month of a baptism booking.
- The cost of Baptism at The Parish of Our Lady and St Therese is \$200 per family.
- Children who live within our parish boundary should not be Baptised in another Parish without the written consent of our Parish Priest.
- A person cannot be re-Baptised. A child cannot be Baptised a Catholic if they have already been Baptised in another denomination.

