

## Checklist for Families

# PRACTICALITIES REGARDING BAPTISM

### During COVID-19 Restrictions

**BAPTISM CEREMONIES** can be arranged by contacting your parish office or parish Priest.

### **DAYS AND TIMES OF BAPTISM**

Some parishes have set days and times for Baptisms. Information will be on parish newsletters, websites and in parish offices.

### **BAPTISMAL MINISTERS** (where there is a Baptism Preparation team)

One of the Baptismal Ministers will contact you before the Baptism and will help you prepare for the ceremony. They can answer any further questions you may have about the Sacrament and the ceremony.

### **GODPARENTS**

The role of the Godparents is to support you in bringing your child up in the Christian faith. It makes sense then, that those you choose should be people of faith themselves. While it is perfectly acceptable to have just one godparent, where there are two, one male and one female is required. The Church requires that Godparents be over the age of 16 and Confirmed in the Catholic Church.

**ON THE DAY OF BAPTISM** It is important to bring the following to the Church:

- BAPTISMAL CANDLE (A special candle is used as part of the baptism ceremony. These are available at the Parish Centre and many shops also sell them.)
- WHITE CHRISTENING ROBE
- Completed REGISTER OF BAPTISM form (if you already received one from the Parish office or from a member of the Baptism team). It contains information required to complete the parish Register of Baptisms. These details should be the same as those entered in the Civil Register of Births.

Numbers attending will be in line with government guidelines and please follow HSE advice on best practice.

It is important that all who are attending the Baptism be in the church at least 10 mins before the ceremony is due to begin so that everyone can get seated and settled.

### **OFFERING TO THE CHURCH**

It is usual to give an offering on the occasion of Baptism. This is at the discretion of every family.

### **LETTERS OF ASSENT**

If you are having your child baptised in a different parish from your parish of residence, it is usual to get a letter of assent. This is available from the Parish Priest or the Parish Office of your own parish.

### **BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES**

If you need a Baptismal Certificate for your child at any stage, it will be available at the Parish office. Allow a week after the baptism ceremony before requesting a Baptismal Certificate.