

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST MICHAEL'S ASHBURTON POLICY FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



The Sacrament of Baptism is not a one off event, but the beginning of an ongoing participation in the life of the faith community.

- Families must be registered parishioners of St Michael's Catholic Church, Ashburton. (New families who wish to register please access *Census Form* under *Contact Us* on front page of Website.) Parents not residing in St Michael's Parish may request to have their child baptised at St Michael's if they obtain a letter of permission from the parish in which they currently reside.
- Two months notice should be given before the suggested Baptism date.
- Children up to age 7 can be baptised as infants. Children aged over 7 years and above need to attend sacramental formation with their parents by arrangement.
- First contact is through the Parish Office by phone 9885 2498 or email ashburton@cam.org.au; Baptism Enrolment Form also available on Parish Website: www.stmichaelsashburton.org

Preparing for your child's baptism

- In order to have a good understanding of the sacrament and the processes involved in the ceremony, parents are encouraged to attend one Baptism information session (especially for the baptism of the first child). These one hour sessions are held on the 1st Saturday morning of every odd month of the year at 10:00am and on the 1st Tuesday evening of every even month of the year at 6:00pm St Michael's Church.
- Godparents should be chosen based on their ability to support parents in raising their child in the beliefs and teachings of the Catholic Church.
- Godparents must be at least 16 years of age. It is preferred that they be **active registered parishioners of their own parish**. However, at least one Godparent must be a Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
- In order to support the living costs of our Parish Priest families are asked to make a donation to the parish at the time of enrolment. Suggested donation is between \$80 and \$100. Please use *Payment Form* available on this Sacrament site and submit with Baptism Booking Form. If this suggested amount is prohibitive, please discuss with the Parish Priest or Sacramental Coordinator.
- Before a date for the Baptism is confirmed, parents must complete the Baptism Form, Payment Form (and Census Form if required) and return to the Parish Office.

Welcome Mass & Morning Tea

- The Rite of Reception involves the presentation of the child to the parish community. This demonstrates the parents' intention to bring a new member into the community and asks the community to welcome, pray for and support the child as the child begins life as a Christian. The Welcome Mass takes place at the 10:30am on the 3rd Sunday of each month. The morning tea following this Mass presents an opportunity to meet members of the parish community.

Rite of Baptism

- The Rite of Baptism is celebrated outside of Mass at 11:45 am every Sunday of the month except the 3rd Sunday. Baptism may take place during Mass on request (except during Lent.)