

Booking your child's baptism



We congratulate you on the birth of your child and wish you every happiness and blessing as parents and as a family. We are delighted that you wish to bring up your child as part of our community in the Catholic Church and we will be honoured to welcome you and your family to celebrate this special moment in the Sacrament of Baptism.

To book a baptism

If you wish to book a baptism please contact Cathy in the Parish Office by email or during Parish Office Hours [see details at the bottom of this page].

Baptisms are typically celebrated on Saturday afternoons and we do our best to accommodate families in terms of in which of our Churches they would like to celebrate the Baptism.

Please note that baptisms are not permitted by the Church during Holy Week until after the celebration of the Easter Vigil. Baptisms may also not be available in a particular Church or on a given weekend due to other parish celebrations such as weddings or First Communion or because of baptisms that have already been booked for that weekend.

Please note that, where two families request the same date and Church for baptism, we celebrate both baptisms within one ceremony, with each family being invited separately to the font for the moment of their child's baptism.

We ask that families give **at least two weeks notice** when booking a baptism. Families are asked to complete the Baptism Booking Form and to return it together with a copy of the child's birth certificate to the parish office at least a week in advance of the baptism.

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon
Thursday 5.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.
Tel: 021-4863267
Email: harbourparish@gmail.com

On the day of the ceremony

On the day of Baptism please bring a white shawl or blanket and a baptismal candle with you to the Church. Keep this candle safe as it will also be used as part of your child's journey to First Communion and Confirmation.

The Harbour Parishes
Monkstown–Passage West–Ringaskiddy–Shanbally



***Baptism:**
A celebration of welcome:
A celebration of life.*

We welcome you with great joy.
THE RITE OF BAPTISM

Understanding Baptism



A Celebration of our dignity as children of God

Baptism celebrates the gift of life your child's dignity as a child of God, loved by God and precious to God. Beyond baptism, the journey of faith is to become what we already are—daughters and sons of God, brothers and sisters in Christ.

Baptism proclaims a radical equality between all of us, young and old, rich and poor, male and female, native and stranger and calls us to follow the example of Jesus by living lives of faith, compassion, justice and truth.

A Moment of Commitment by parents and godparents

In baptism parents/guardians promise to share their Christian faith and values with their children. They do so primarily by the witness of their lives and the power of their example. It is in the home that children learn and experience trust, love, faith and hope and parents are the first and most important teachers of their children in the ways of faith.

Godparents accompany parents in this commitment and support the child in their journey of faith as they grow up. In order to give authentic witness a godparent should be a person who seeks to truly live their Christian faith and be willing to support their godchild's faith by their example, prayer and encouragement. For, this reason the Church asks that families choose two godparents, a man and a woman, who are at least 16 years old, who have been baptised and confirmed themselves, and who understand the commitment they are undertaking to support the child in their faith as they grow up.

A moment for thanksgiving and prayer

In baptism we give thanks to God for the gift of this new life which is fruit of the parent's love. We ask God to bless the child, the parents and the entire family and to continue to watch over them, protect them and enrich their lives with many blessings.

An expression of faith

By asking for baptism for your child, even if you don't think of yourself as very religious, you are recognising that God is part of your life and that the gift of your child is a wonderful blessing from God. By asking for your child to be baptised you are expressing your openness to God and inviting the Lord to be with your family as your child grows and develops into the unique gift in our world that God wishes them to be.

Celebrating Baptism



Welcome and blessings

The celebrant welcomes the children and their families. The parents /guardians proclaim the child's name and they and the godparents declare their commitment to sharing their faith with them. The children are blessed with the sign of the cross on the forehead and the Oil of Baptism / Catechumens on the chest as a way of asking God to protect them from all evil and to keep them safe from all harm .



The Word of God

We listen to the word of God for it is in and through it that we come to know of Jesus and the love of God. We offer our intercessions and prayers for all God's people.



Profession of Faith & Baptism

After blessing the baptismal water, the parents and godparents profess their faith and the child is baptised by the blessing with water in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.



Gestures & Symbols

A series of gestures follows the baptism. These are joyful ways of expressing what baptism means. Each child is anointed on the head with the perfumed Oil of Chrism, which is a sign of being chosen and blessed by God. The white garments symbolise the child's dignity as a child of God. The candle is lit from the Easter Candle to symbolise our sharing in the life of the Risen Jesus who is our light and hope. The blessing of the ears and mouth expresses our hope that the child will come to hear and proclaim God's word as they grow older.



The Lord's Prayer & final blessings

We pray the Lord's Prayer as a sign of our shared faith and trust in God. We ask the Lord to bless the parents/guardians in their sacred and most precious of vocations.