

## What happens when we are Baptized

Baptism is a serious step - the first step on a lifelong journey. The journey begins by responding to God's invitation of love to live as a disciple of Christ. When the invitation is accepted there is something to be celebrated. Yet Baptism does not bring God's love into being as if that love did not exist before the ceremony. Baptism is the Church's way of celebrating and enacting the embrace of God who first loved us from the moment of our conception. Baptism celebrates a family's and a community's experience of that love in the baptized.

There are other life experiences - birth, death, washing, growing and so forth-that are celebrated in Baptism. The water represents life, death, cleansing and growth, and it recalls the flood waters of Noah's day and the saving waters of the Red Sea parted by Moses. The candle symbolizes our status as an "easter people" and signifies the way that the Church "passes the torch" of Christian commitment to those being baptised. The white garment represents the Church's belief that Baptism sets us free from sin.

Baptism happens not only to the individual, but also to Christ's body on earth, the Church. That's why we celebrate Baptism at the main Family Eucharist on the second Sunday of a month, with the community present and actively participating. It is the community, after all, who is welcoming the new members, journeying with them, providing models for them, supporting and nourishing them. Baptism begins with God's love and care revealed to us through Christ. It continues with us, the Church, living and enacting God's love and care through Christ to the world. That's a serious commitment.

### What next?

If you decide to have your child baptized please **fill in the form opposite** and **read the notes on pg. 4** then **speak to Fr. Robert**. Before your child can be baptised you will have to come to at least one Sunday Service but it would be good if you could attend more, remembering the 'community' aspect of Baptism. Also you will have to attend a preparation session which looks in more detail at baptism and the service. If you have any questions please do not hesitate in contacting me.

## Application for Baptism

*Please read the Important Notes on the back page first.*

Child's date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

When would you like the baptism to take place? Please note that this will need to be confirmed by the Priest.

Child's Christian Name(s) and surname \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Christian Name(s) and surname \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been Baptized (Christened)? \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmed? \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Christian Name(s) and surname \_\_\_\_\_

Have you been Baptized (Christened)? \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmed? \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of godparents (they **must** be baptized/christened please note No2 on the next page!):

1 \_\_\_\_\_ Baptized? \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmed? \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_ Baptized? \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmed? \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_ Baptized? \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmed? \_\_\_\_\_

4+ \_\_\_\_\_ Baptized? \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmed? \_\_\_\_\_



**Important Notes**  
please note the highlighted items!

1. As a parent or godparent you should ask yourself. Are you prepared to the best of your ability to give the child a Christian upbringing within the family of Christ's Church? Will you help the child to be regular in public worship and in prayer, not only by your teaching but also by your example and your prayers? Will you encourage the child in due time to come to Confirmation and Communion? It is not essential under Church Law for parents to be baptized and confirmed unless they are to be godparents.

2. It is usual to have three godparents, two of the same sex as the child and one of the opposite sex, but to have one godfather and one godmother is sufficient if there are problems in finding three godparents. Parents may be godparents to their own children, provided that the child has at least one other godparent. **Church law requires that godparents should be baptized and confirmed, but the requirement of confirmation can be relaxed in certain cases.**

3. A child should normally be baptized at his or her parish church or the church the parents normally attend.

**4. Baptisms take place at the Family Parade Eucharist on the second Sunday in the month at 10am.**

**5. You must attend one 10am Parish Eucharist before the baptism.**

**6. You must attend a Baptism Preparation Session.**

I confirm that I have read the above and agree to the content of the Notes.

Signed by Parent/Guardian \_\_\_\_\_

**Please sign and return** this form to the parish priest:  
Fr. Robert Chapman, St Thomas' Vicarage, 182 Boston Road, London,  
W7 2AD (☎ 020 3302 1040 ✉ fatherrobert@thomashanwell.org.uk)

# Baptism

at St Thomas', Boston Road

