



BAPTISMS

at

ST. ANDREW'S PARISH

105 Greaves Street North

Werribee, VIC 3030

(P.O. Box 872, Werribee, VIC 3030)

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Dear Parent/s,

St. Andrew's Parish congratulates you on the birth of your child, and welcomes your request to make your child a member of this Christian community through the Sacrament of Baptism.

This is a special time of joy and celebration of the gift of new life. It is a time of great hopes and dreams for the many years of life you look forward to sharing with your child and the other members of your family.

The Parish has its hopes and dreams for each child it welcomes in Baptism that the child will grow:

- to appreciate God our Father's love for everyone,
- to know about Jesus and come to love Him,
- to be aware of the Spirit that gives people the power to live in Christ,
- to want to take part in the life of the Church in this Parish.

We look forward to supporting you and your child in the journey of Christian commitment through the Sacraments of Initiation, i.e. Baptism, Communion and Confirmation and hope it is strengthened by prayer, love and service to each other in daily life.

With my own congratulations and best wishes,

Fr. Albert Yogarajah
Parish Priest

**THE PARISH REQUIRES THAT YOU BEGIN TO PREPARE
AT LEAST 3 MONTHS PRIOR TO YOUR PREFERRED DATE
FOR YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISM**

All parents please note: Attendance at a Baptism Preparation session is required before the baptism of EACH child. If you are unable to attend the session you are booked in for, you need to attend the next available session. Baptism of your child will only proceed when you have participated in one of the sessions offered.

**THE PARISH OFFICE REQUIRES AT LEAST ONE PARENT
TO PROVIDE A COPY OF THEIR BAPTISM CERTIFICATE
AS PROOF THAT THEY ARE CATHOLIC.**

Catholic parents who have not completed their Sacraments (First Eucharist and/or Confirmation) have the option to enquire about a series of workshops with a Priest to receive the Sacraments. Please contact the Parish Office on 9741 4144 if you are interested in this.

1. CHOICE OF GODPARENTS

- The Catholic Church requires that at least one of your child's godparents must be at least sixteen (16) years old and have received the sacraments of Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.
- If the people you choose are of another Christian faith, they will be considered as witnesses. Their name will appear on your child's Baptism Certificate. Even though they are not Catholics, they are encouraged to join with you in guiding your child's faith.
- Young people whom you would like to name as a sponsor, but who do not fit the age requirement, are encouraged to take an active interest in your child's journey of faith, even though at this stage they cannot be considered mature enough to be a godparent. Their name can NOT be printed on the baptism certificate or appear in the register, but they can sign their name on the back of the certificate if they wish.
- If the godparent you have chosen is unable to attend the Baptism because of some pressing reason, Godparent by proxy is permitted. The person/s standing as proxy will not have their names recorded as the godparents with all the attendant responsibilities. However, they are encouraged to take an active interest in your child's spiritual life of faith.

Please note: TWO GODPARENTS ONLY will appear on Baptism Certificate and Register. (Additional Godparents or Witnesses can sign their name on the back of the certificate.)

2. PRESENTATION OF THE CHILD TO THE PARISH

The welcoming of new members into our local Christian community is an important event for the Parish. To enable the Parish to welcome your child, you are asked to attend one of the weekend masses (Saturday or Sunday) where you, the child to be baptised and Godparents if they are available, will be presented to the community to be welcomed and prayed for.

This is the beginning of your child's faith journey. The welcoming may occur before or after your preparation session.

You may like to have your child welcomed at one of the 5 Community Masses:

First Sunday of the Month at 10am: **Our Lady of the Southern Cross Catholic Primary School**
(Wyndham Vale & Manor Lakes)

Second Sunday of the Month at 10am: **Bethany Catholic Primary School**
(Bethany/Tarneit)

Third Sunday of the Month at 10am: **Chapel of St. Mary of the Cross at MacKillop College**
(Werribee South/South Central)

Fourth Saturday of the Month at 5pm: **St. John the Apostle Primary School**
(Tarneit West)

Fourth Sunday of the Month at 10am: **St. Michael's Church, Little River**

3. BOOKING IN FOR PRESENTATION & PREPARATION

All parents requesting Baptism for their children are expected to book in and attend a Preparation Session, usually held on **the last Saturday afternoon of each month from 2pm – 4pm at the Penola Hub, 33 Mortimer St., Werribee.**

Both parents, unless you are a single parent, are expected to attend, regardless of religion. Godparents, relatives and friends are also invited to attend if they are able. Children are welcome to attend. Please be punctual. The session will start on time. If you are unable to attend, please contact the Parish Office, so that you may be booked into the next available monthly preparation session. You will receive a certificate of attendance after the completion of the session.

Please note: Attendance at a Baptism Preparation Session is compulsory for all parents for each of their children, regardless of whether they have attended a session previously.

4. TIME TO THINK ABOUT IT

You will be handed a Details of Baptism Form and evaluation sheet at the end of the preparation session. You will be asked to spend some time thinking about the issues involved and the parental commitment required in having your child baptised. You will be asked to reflect on your own faith commitment and the responsibilities of living out your faith.

You then have 3 options:

- a) do nothing further if you need more time to reflect on your commitment or you decide not to continue with the Baptism,
- b) request an appointment with a Pastoral Associate to discuss any issues which may have arisen for you (phone Parish Office on Ph. 9741 4144),
- c) book a date for your child's Baptism.

5. BOOKING A DATE FOR YOUR CHILD'S BAPTISM

If you decide to have your child baptised, we ask that you return the completed and signed Details of Baptism Form, along with the donation in the envelope provided at least one week prior to your child's Baptism. The above could be returned personally or by mail to the **St. Andrew's Parish Office, 105 Greaves St. North (P.O. Box 872), Werribee, VIC 3030.**

***Please note:** Both parents are asked to sign the consent form. You may arrange a confidential appointment to discuss any problems with this proviso with your Pastoral Associate or the Parish Priest.*

It is customary to offer a donation on the occasion of Baptism. As a guide, we recommend \$80. We prefer that the offering be placed in the envelope provided at the Preparation Session and returned to the Parish Office with the Details of Baptism Form, at least a week before the Baptism date.

6. GENERAL INFORMATION

St. Andrew's Weekend Mass Times:

Saturday Vigil Mass at 6pm, Sunday Masses at 8am, 9.30am, 11am & 5pm.

At all the above weekend masses, celebrations may include a maximum of four Welcomings.

BAPTISM SERVICE:

Usually held at 12.30pm on Sundays.

A maximum of six families may be booked in for Baptism, i.e. a family may present more than one child for Baptism.

