

BAPTISMS AT ST FINBAR'S - SOME BASIC INFORMATION

Frequency of Baptisms

Baptisms at St Finbar's are generally held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 11.00am.

Maximum Numbers

At St Finbar's we set the maximum number of children to be Baptised at an 11.00am ceremony at four. Bookings are generally made on a first come first served basis, although preference will be given to parishioners.

Baptismal Register Information Form

This form collects information required for parish records so that a Certificate of Baptism can be issued. Please complete this form and email to secretary@stfinbars.org.au as soon as you can. Also, please **print** all correspondence **legibly** to avoid any confusion for the Parish records.

Choosing Godparents

A godparent is someone who represents the family of the Church which is welcoming your child as a new member. Part of the responsibility of a godparent is to provide a Christian role model for your child. When you ask someone to take on this responsibility you are inviting that person to share in the life of your family in a very special and important way.

It is usual to have two godparents, but you may select up to four godparents for your child. At least one of the godparents must be a **baptised, confirmed, practicing Catholic** and we will need to sight a copy of that godparent's Confirmation certificate. All godparents **must** be over the age of 16 years.

Non-Parishioners

If you wish to have your child baptised at St Finbar's, but you do not live within the parish area, you will need to demonstrate some type of link to St Finbar's Parish. You will also need to complete an Out of Area form and have it signed by your local Parish Priest. Please contact the Baptism Coordinator for further information.

Donations

It is customary to make a donation to the Parish on the occasion of the Baptism of a child. While there is no "right amount", we hope you might consider \$50 to \$100 depending on your financial situation. An envelope has been included for this purpose. You are encouraged to bring your donation to the Baptism Preparation Session.

Baptism Preparation Sessions

These are generally held in the Parish Meeting Room at 7.30 pm on the first Tuesday of the month prior to the scheduled Baptism dates. At this informal

meeting, you will hear about some basics concerning Baptism, including the true meaning of Baptism and an outline of what is involved with the ceremony. We will also take you into the church so you can see where to stand and sit during the ceremony. In addition, there is an opportunity for discussion and questions, and you will meet other families preparing for this first of the sacraments of initiation. You are welcome to bring your children to this meeting if you wish, and godparents are also welcome.

Arrival Time

Please ensure that you, your child and the godparents are at the church at least 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the 11.00am Baptism ceremony.

Candle

You will need to obtain a Baptismal candle for your child. It can be as simple or as elaborate as you like. This candle will be lit during the ceremony, and it will be lit again at your child's Confirmation. You can buy Baptismal candles from religious supply shops, the Parish Piety stall or from www.classycandles.com.au. You can also use a plain candle which you have decorated simply.

Photographs

One or two people from your family may take photographs during the ceremony. Please make sure photographers do not interrupt or intrude in any way on the ceremony, and that they do not obstruct the vision of anyone in the church. Photographs may also be taken at the font after the ceremony.

Special Circumstances, Concerns, Questions, Further Information

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact me any time on 47398928 or email: secretary@stfinbars.org.au . We look forward to welcoming your child into our parish community through the Sacrament of Baptism.

Yours sincerely

Juliana Khnouf

Parish Secretary

St Finbar's Parish Baptism Co-ordinator

on behalf of Fr Jolly Chacko MS, St Finbar's Parish Community and the Baptism team.