

Here is a brief outline:

1. At the Rite of Welcome, which takes place at the start of the Baptismal ceremony, you will be asked by the priest, “**Are you ready to help these parents in their duty as Christian mothers and fathers?**”

Your answer will be, “**I am.**”

2. Just before the pouring of water, you will be asked to renew your own Baptismal promises, together with the parents, by answering a series of questions about rejecting sin and reaffirming your faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. This includes belief in God our creator, Jesus’ birth, death and resurrection, the forgiveness of sin and life everlasting.

The answer to all of these questions is “**I do.**”

3. At the end of the ceremony you will be invited to hold your godchild’s Baptismal candle as the priest lights it from our Easter candle. This is to remind you that it is the parents’ and godparents’ duty to help keep the light of Christ alive in the child’s heart.

You will not have this responsibility on your own because it really is the whole Church community’s responsibility as well!

Finally, we hope all your questions have been answered so enjoy the special spiritual relationship between your godchild and yourself. If you do have any other questions, please call St Finbar’s Parish office on 4739 8928.

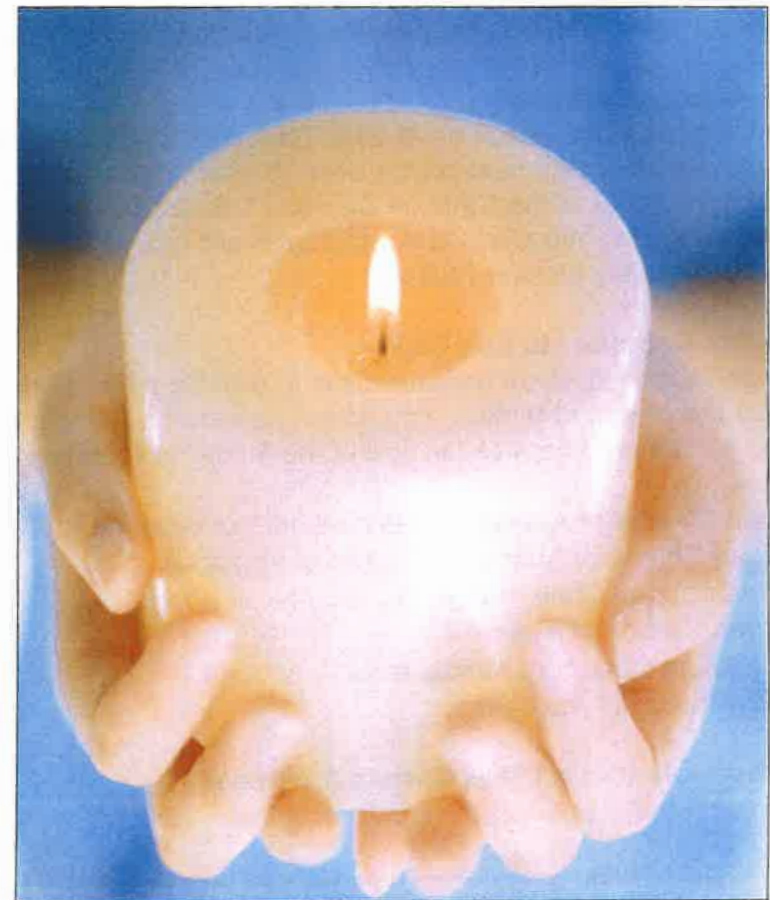
We hope that by being a Christian godparent you will be wonderfully blessed.

**From St Finbar’s Parish Community**

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**Congratulations!**  
**So You’re Going to be a Godparent!**

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ST FINBAR'S CATHOLIC PARISH GLENBROOK  
46 Levy Street, Glenbrook NSW 2773 Phone 4739 8928 Fax 4739 8929  
www.stfinbars.org.au email baptisms@stfinbars.org.au

Congratulations and thank you for supporting your future godchild by agreeing to be their godparent. It doesn't seem like a difficult task and it will be wonderful to join in the happiness of this family on the Baptismal day.

However, you might ask "What are my responsibilities?" or "Do I have to do any more than hold a towel ready to dry my godchild?" Well there are a few more things to consider.

Here are some questions that godparents and parents sometimes ask:

- **Do I have to be Catholic?**

One of the godparents **must** have been Baptised, Confirmed and have received Holy Communion; be over 16 years old; and be a **practising** member of the Catholic Church. These Catholic godparents representing the Catholic Church are a link between the Catholic community and the family.

- **But I'm not Catholic. Is that OK?**

Part of the responsibility of godparents is to provide a Christian role model for the child and family. You do not have to be Catholic to do that, you just have to be baptised in one of the following Christian traditions:

- Catholic Church of Australia (Baptised but not Confirmed)
- Anglican Church of Australia (Church of England)
- Greek Orthodox Church of Australia
- Lutheran Church of Australia
- Presbyterian Church of Australia
- Uniting Church of Australia

In this case your official title is **Christian Witness**.

To confirm your Baptism or Confirmation, we ask that you find copies of your Baptism and/or Confirmation certificates.

- **Are there any other responsibilities for godparents or Christian witnesses?**

It is quite easy to say, but sometimes difficult to do. You need to have faith in Jesus Christ, live the Christian life and be ready to help the newly Baptised child on their road to faith.

One way to continue to support your new godchild is to celebrate the rest of their initiation into the Catholic Church when they celebrate the sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation.

Another suggestion is to remember their Baptism day in some way each year. It might be a card, a phone call, a visit or have the whole family over for a barbeque.

Praying for your godchild is one of the best things a godparent can do.

**Godparent's Prayer**

May God, who filled the world with joy by giving us His only Son,  
Bless (name).  
May he/she grow to be more fully like Jesus our Lord.

**Amen**

- **What do I have to do on the day?**

It is not very complicated, and your godchild's parents should be able to tell you most of it.