

Archdiocese of Glasgow  
St. Joseph's, Helensburgh

## Applying for the Sacrament of Baptism

Thank you for your request to apply for your child to receive the Sacrament of Baptism. Here are some guidelines for your application.

### Requirements of the Church

For a child to be Baptised lawfully it is required:

1. That the parents, or at least one of them, or the person who lawfully holds their place, is a member of the Catholic Church.
2. That there be well-founded hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic religion. If such a hope is lacking, the Baptism may be deferred in accordance with the provisions of particular law (Code of Canon Law para. 868.2) and the parents advised of the reason for this.
3. Your Parish is the local Church which has pastoral responsibility for the area in which you live (not necessarily the Church where you worship). If you wish to have your child Baptised in a Parish where you do not have residence, a letter giving permission must be obtained from your own parish priest.

### Godparents

To be admitted to undertake the office of sponsor, (godparent) a person must:

- Be not less than sixteen years of age, unless the parish priest considers that there is a just reason for an exception to be made.
- Be a practising Catholic who has been confirmed and who lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken. A non-Catholic may act as a Christian witness to the Baptism in company with a Catholic sponsor.
- Not be either the father or mother of the child to be Baptised.