



Downpatrick Parish



Diocese of Down and Connor

REQUEST FOR BAPTISM

Congratulations on the birth of your child. The long months of waiting are now over and you can rejoice in the gift of a new life –Your child. It is a time of hope and a time to look to the future for your child and for yourselves.

Your child's faith begins with Baptism, but you will need to encourage that faith as your child approaches First Confession (P3), First Holy Communion (P4) and Confirmation (P7). If your child is to receive all these Sacraments, it is essential that you make sure they receive a good religious formation at home and at school, and when your child reaches an appropriate age bring them regularly to the church.

During the Baptism Ceremony, the Priest will ask you if you accept these responsibilities:

“You have asked to have your child baptised, in doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her in the practice of faith. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?”

Neglecting the training of your child in the practice of faith could undermine the reception of sacraments.

Baptism is about faith in Jesus and a commitment to Christian values as handed on by the Church. Baptism will involve communicating Christian faith and values to your child, as a parent, the best way to help your child is to examine your own life and beliefs now. That is why the priest will ask you to renew your Baptismal Promises during the Ceremony...*“Do you believe”* ...

Arrangements for your Child's Baptism should be made in person at the Parish Office, Parochial House, 54 St. Patrick's Avenue, Downpatrick. You can book your child's Baptism with the Parish Secretary Mon – Thurs 9.15am – 3pm.

Check List: To avoid disappointment or misunderstandings, check things with the Priest before you make arrangements or ask others to be involved. Complete this form and take it, with the birth certificate if applicable, when booking the Baptism. If there are any questions in relation to the Baptism, please discuss them with the Priest or Parish Secretary prior to booking.

1. A minimum of **6 weeks notice** is required for ALL Baptisms
2. If you live in another parish or are travelling from abroad to have your child baptised, you need written permission from the Priest of the Parish where you live. Ideally, the child should be baptised in the parish where you live and attend Mass.
3. If a couple are not legally married, the child can only be registered with the father's surname if it has been registered on the Birth Certificate. If this applies to you, please bring a copy of the Long Birth Certificate when booking the Baptism



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Baptism Request

Please complete the information below:

Child's Name

Date of Birth

Father's Name

Mother's Name

Home Address

Church & Date of Marriage

Sponsors

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Sponsors:

1. One sponsor, male or female, is sufficient; but there may be two, one male and one female (canon 873)
2. To undertake the role of sponsor, a person must be:
 - (a) Not less than 16 years of age (canon 874.1)
 - (b) be a Catholic , who has been confirmed and has received the blessed Eucharist, and who lives a life of faith, which befits the role to be undertaken (canon 874.2)
3. A baptised person who belongs to a Christian ecclesial community may be admitted only in company with a Catholic sponsor and then simply as a Christian Witness to the Baptism (canon 874)
4. Non – baptised people cannot be admitted as a Christian Witness

