

**ST MADELEINE'S SOPHIE PARISH**  
**28 Annangrove Road, Kenthurst NSW 2156**

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

**INFORMATION FOR PARENTS**

Welcome to St Madeleine's and congratulations on the birth of your baby. Baptism is the first of the Church's Sacraments and we appreciate you for gifting your child with Faith in God through this Sacrament. Baptism is the first step towards becoming a Christian, a full believer in Jesus and a member of God's family of believer, the Church. In the years ahead, the further Sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist will help your child become a fully initiated Christian. If this is your first child, then the following notes will help you prepare for a meaningful celebration. If you already have had a child baptized, then these notes may be just a reminder for you in so far as the celebration is concerned.

You are asked to present your child to the community in any one of the weekend Masses prior to Baptism.

Sometimes, the parents requesting for baptism are single parents or a couple not yet married, or may be in a marriage not recognised by the Church. The Church welcomes you with a special joy and is willing to offer whatever assistance may be needed. You could arrange a time to see the priest.

Baptism are celebrated on the fourth Sunday of every month at 11.20am. If you chose to have baptism on other Sunday, it will be celebrated within the 10am Mass.

The Church does not charge for administering any Sacrament, but a donation of minimum \$100 towards the maintenance of the Church and the support of the clergy in the Diocese of Parramatta is customary at Baptism and it will be much appreciated.

**What to bring for the celebration of the Baptism:**

1. **Godparents:** Normally these are your relatives, closest friends, people you would trust with your own life. At least one of them should be a Catholic Christian regularly practicing the faith. You may have additional godparents who are believers of other Christian churches. Their role is to stand with you and your child as you seek to share your faith and love.
2. **A candle:** This may be of any colour but normally white. It should be a large diameter candle capable of burning for a long time. Not a dinner candle please! The candle represents Christ, the Light of the World, and is lit on birthdays, when the child is sick and is placed on the coffin when the baptised person dies to show that the life received at Baptism lives on after death. For this reason it may be decorated. The child's name can be painted or carved on the candle along with the date of the baptism. Other symbols such as found on Easter candle may be placed on the Baptism Candle in the same way.
3. **A litany during the celebration seeks the intercession of the Saints to bless and to protect the child during this life. It is nice to use the name of Saints familiar to the family such as the baby's name, the Saints name of parents, godparents, in-laws favourite Saints etc. Three names would be sufficient.**
4. **A Christening Dress.** The child could be already dressed in "Christening Dress." Some families have a special christening robe handed down from one generation to the next. This is fine but again don't worry if you haven't got one. A nice shawl or the baby's "Sunday Best" will do nicely.

If you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Office on 9654 2260.