

**Our Lady Queen of Martyrs  
& St. Swithin**

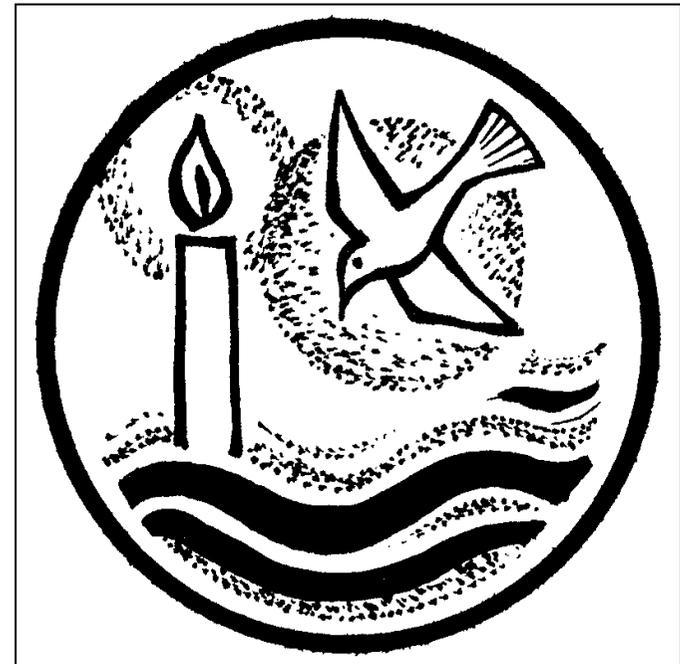
Baptism Preparation

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The Parish of  
Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs  
and Saint Swithin  
Croxteth



**Date of Baptism:**

Thank you for enquiring about Baptism  
at Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs

The beginning of a new life is exciting; it can also be a little frightening.

You will have already prayed that your baby will grow safe and well.

It is now time to think about Baptism.

Baptism is a time of celebration. It is something for you and your family, but it is also a special time for all the other members of the Church because the Church is to welcome new members.

Baptism is a time for you to grow in faith. You may be doing this week by week as you live out and celebrate your faith, but for some we recognise that this growth may have been stunted by things out of your control or by personal times of hardship. Maybe at times people in the Church have not always lived up to the gospel of love and this has "put people off". The baptism of your child may be an opportunity to renew your Christian faith and begin again.

You may be anxious if you've been out of touch with church for a while, or if you or your partner is not a Catholic or if you are a single parent or if you are just not sure. Don't worry.

We hope that you will feel welcome and part of the community that is the Parish of Our Lady, Queen of Martyrs and St Swithin.

### **This leaflet tells you what to do next.**

- Arrange to see the priest or deacon to book a date for your child's Baptism. (It is best not to make any other arrangements until you have been given a date.)
- You will be told about the Baptism Preparation meeting. This is just one evening, for parents, in the month prior to the baptism of your child. The meeting is held in the community room adjacent to Church.
- A few weeks later you, your child, the Godparents and guests will come to the Church for the actual Baptism. The usual day and time for Baptisms at Queen of Martyrs is Sunday at 1pm. Please try to arrive a bit early so we can start on time.
- How much does it cost? A donation of £25 towards the costs of running the Church would be appreciated.
- We look forward to celebrating Baptism with you.

**Who do I choose?**

A Godparent must be a believing Christian committed to helping you during the time of baptism preparation and someone who will help you, the first teachers of your child in the ways of faith, to share that faith with your child as they grow to adulthood. They must pray for your child often and be people who will be well known to him or her as they grow up. They must also be able to come to the Welcome Mass.

**Do they have to be a Catholic?**

To be a Godparent you should be a living witness of the Christian life and one who practises their faith. So the simple answer is yes they have to be a Catholic.

If you wish you can ask someone to be a **Christian Witness**. They do not have to be Catholics, but should be people of the Gospel and committed to their Christian faith. They make the same promises as Godparents and have the same responsibilities. They will be made very welcome at the Baptism service.

**How old does the Godparent have to be?**

The Church asks that they be Confirmed or at least preparing for Confirmation.

**How many Godparents can I have?**

The Church speaks of having one Godparent. You do not have to have a Godfather and a Godmother. If you wish to have more than one I am sure your child would benefit from being surrounded by many people of faith, but one is all that is required.