

St Jude's Parish, Langwarrin



Baptism:

The Beginning of a Journey in Faith



Child's name:

Preparation Meeting date:

Welcome Sunday date:

Baptism date:

Celebrant:

Parents:

Godparents:

~St Jude's Church, Warrandyte Road, Langwarrin~

The Christian community welcomes you with great joy'

Our community of faith congratulates you on the birth of your child and on your decision to introduce your child, through our celebration of Baptism, to membership of our local Christian community. This is a special time of joy when your love has been touched by God



to create with Him another human life. Our church community shares your hopes and supports you in the responsibility for nurturing your child in faith.

This booklet helps you to prepare for the celebration of your child's Baptism by asking you to explore your own commitment to faith, your own Baptism journey, and your hopes for your child.

Baptism – a beginning!

There is something beautiful about a beginning. Even before a baby is born, the whole family is filled with anticipation. So, too, is our church family. Your child's Baptism is another opportunity for us to welcome a new member – to complement our family and share an ongoing journey of faith in our loving God who constantly asks us to make new beginnings.



When we are baptised, we stand with Jesus. For some, our Baptism comes because of a personal commitment resulting from a journey of faith. As infants, it's because of the love of parents and the welcome of the church. In each case it results, not from what we do, but from the love of God graciously taking us to Himself.

Baptism is something God does! It is His act of overwhelming us with His love, pouring out His spirit, making us His people and pledging to us His enduring love – **original blessing** itself! His constant invitation to us as adults to renew and explore our own Baptism highlights the necessity of our personal acceptance in faith of this free gift.

True, at some time, whether gradually or suddenly, we all need to make this gift our own and respond to God in personal gratitude and wonder. But, we must never forget that it's His favour that rests on us (Mark 1:11). Our part in this remarkable relationship is to celebrate our acceptance of His gift.



Before I formed you in the womb I knew you,
before you were born I set you apart.

-Jeremiah 1:5

For it is by God's grace that you have been
saved through faith. It is not the result of
your own efforts, but God's gift, so that
no one can boast about it!

-Ephesians 2:8-9

Welcome Sunday

On a Sunday after your Preparation Meeting, parents and godparents (if available) attend the 10 a.m. Mass. At this time, the first part of the Baptism Liturgy is celebrated. The priest will ask you what name you have given your child and on behalf of the parish he claims the child for Christ our Saviour.



Godparents

The selection of Godparents is your choice. However, the role is not simply cosmetic or to be a reward for favours. It is a parenting role in the life of faith of your child. Therefore, according to the rule of the church, at least one Godparent must be a practising Catholic.

Baptism Rite

Baptisms take place on the 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month at 11.30 a.m. During the baptism rite several signs and symbols are used to bring out the meaning of baptism.



Water: Water is for cleansing and is a sign that sins are washed away. The priest will pour water over your child's head.

Oil: Perfumed oil (chrism) which was blessed by the Archbishop during Holy Week will be used to anoint your baby. This oil is a sign of the strengthening power of Christ. The use of the oil blessed by the Archbishop shows that your child is joined to the wider church beyond the parish boundaries.

White Garment: You are required to bring a white garment to the Baptism and this will be put on your child DURING the ceremony. This shows your child's new dignity in Christ.

Candle: During the Baptism ceremony the priest will light your child's candle from the Easter Candle. He will recite a prayer which asks that the flame of faith be kept alive in the heart of the child. This is a reminder to you, as parents, of your duty as Christian parents.

Sign of the Cross: A sign on something shows its origins or ownership. The sign of the cross is the mark of Christians because Jesus Christ died on the cross. The priest, parents and godparents all make the sign of the cross on your child's forehead to show that the child now belongs to Christ.



You and God

Your baby's baptism is the birth of your family alive with faith in the eternal life promised by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There will never be another family quite the same as yours, with all its strengths and weaknesses. Take time for yourselves and your faith: each is irreplaceable!

Prayer is often described as *wasting time with God*. But it is time well spent—in coming closer to God, we also draw closer to each other. Your child will learn by your example. As your child grows older, their faith will be based on what they learned and experienced in the home and community from their very first days of life.

Teaching your little one to pray is as simple as a short prayer at mealtimes or at bedtime—asking God to bless a sick friend or even a pet. This can be followed by any of the best-known prayers—especially the Lord's Prayer.

The community is the parish family—we're not Christians by ourselves! Baptism requires faith, and in the case of children being baptized it's the faith of the parents and the faith of the community that counts. Your faith prompts you to bring your child to the Church: our faith welcomes and supports you!

St Jude's Parish family invites you to share the weekly Sunday mass with us—we look forward to seeing you together as a family as often as you can make it! Do not be put off if your child is fidgety or noisy. Sit at the end of a pew so if you really feel you need to, you can make a quick exit.



Sunday Mass Times:

| | |
|----------|--------------------|
| Saturday | 6.30 pm |
| Sunday | 8.30 am & 10.00 am |