

FAQ's FOR BAPTISM @ St Mary MacKillop Parish

General

I live outside the parish zone; can I still baptise my child at St Mary MacKillop Parish?

If you worship in our parish then you are considered a parishioner. If you attend Mass elsewhere or don't go to church, then you will need to acquire a permission letter from the parish priest of the area you live in.

How do I book in for Baptism?

Please call the parish office on 4648 2226 during office hours with your calendar in front of you or come into the office. We can book in one of our available set Baptism dates over the phone. You will also need to book into a **Preparation Evening** and **Welcome Mass** prior to the Baptism date. These are held once a month at Oran Park Church. You will also be required to collect a Baptism Information/Enrolment Pack form from the office during office hours. The enrolment form needs to be completed neatly and returned to the office.

What is a Welcome Mass?

When you Baptise your child in the Catholic faith, they are becoming a part of a greater family that is the Church and parish community. Because we hold the Baptisms outside of the general Mass times, we encourage you to bring your child to a Welcome Mass where they along with other children preparing for Baptism will be blessed and welcomed into the parish community.

How long does the Baptism go for?

Approximately 45mins - 1 hour depending on the number of families booked in at the same time. The Baptism is not held during a full Mass.

I am not Catholic, but my partner is, can my child still be Baptised?

Yes, one parent or legal guardian must be a baptised Catholic. By Baptising your child, you are agreeing to take on the responsibility of bringing up your child in the Catholic faith. Both parents/guardians must sign the enrolment form.

How much does the Baptism cost?

Baptism is a sacrament and doesn't cost anything. We do provide you with an offering envelope and ask that you make a donation and give it directly to the priest/deacon on the day.

Can I have a private Baptism?

With the exponential growth of our parish and the number of Baptismal enquiries with only one parish priest, we are not able to offer private baptisms.

Can I bring my own priest/deacon?

We have one Sunday per month that we can allow for a visiting priest/deacon to come and celebrate baptisms. This is a set day and time in the diary. We require plenty of notice to get all the paperwork in order that the visiting priest/deacon will need to complete before he comes.

Can I book in a Saturday?

No, sorry the church is not available for baptisms on Saturdays, we have set days and times for Baptisms.

Do you have a map that I can pass onto family and friends to show them how to get to the Oran Park Mass Centre?

A map that you can copy and give to family and friends is provided in our Baptism Welcome Pack. You will also find maps for our parish centres on our website www.marymackillopparish.org.au

How can I share my God given gifts of time, talent and treasure with the parish?

It would be wonderful if you could share your gifts with the parish. This year we are introducing a **Welcome Evening** for people who are new to the parish, or those looking to make the parish their spiritual home. It is an opportunity to hear about ways you can be involved in the parish, and to meet with welcome team members, staff, clergy and newcomers.

The dates for this year's Welcome Evenings are:

19th May, 16th June, 28th July, 18th August

All will be held following our 5.00pm Vigil Mass in the **Penola Room** on the left-hand side of our Oran Park church. Please R.S.V.P. by either email or phone the Parish Office as to which date you will be attending.

Godparents

Do the godparents need to be Catholic?

One of the Godparents must be Catholic. The other Godparents who are not Catholic are witnesses.

How many Godparents can I have?

As is customary, and due to the seating in the church, we ask that you select a maximum of 2 godparents per child. While some decide to choose one woman and one man to be godparents, you can choose 2 males or 2 females.

How old do the Godparents need to be?

The Godparent must be over the age of 16yrs. Under the age of 16yrs is considered a witness.

Do the Godparents come to the Prep night?

Having the Godparents come to the Prep night is a wonderful way for them to share in preparing for this special occasion and allow them to ask any questions they might have prior to the day. It is not always possible for the Godparents to attend this evening and that is ok.