

Children's Baptism

Preparation for children 6-12 years of age

We welcome your enquiry and look forward to understanding more about you and your child and the events which have led to this request to become a Catholic.

This brochure will help you to know more about what it means to become a Catholic and what is involved in the preparation.

Our Lady of Dolours Chatswood Catholic Parish

94 Archer Street
Chatswood NSW 2067
Phone: (02) 9410 9000
chatswoodoffice@bbcatholic.org.au

Clergy

Fr. David Ranson PP
Fr. Anselam Lakra AP
Fr. Hien Vi AP
Deacon Tan Nguyen

Children's Ministries Staff

Angela Hague
Mona Saouma
chatswood.sacraments@bbcatholic.org.au



What's Involved in being Catholic

The Catholic Church is a world-wide family of believers who follow the ways and teachings of Jesus Christ. Catholics share a distinct way of life characterised by certain beliefs, values and patterns of worship. The Catholic Church is not just a religion, but a people, a community.

A child being baptised will need support to grow into this commitment and way of life. Usually this support comes from a child's Catholic parent/s who are raising their child to be Catholic.

In a situation where neither parent is a Catholic, it is important that we discuss with you what support is available to your child and whether or not the decision to baptise your child is advisable at this time.

Become acquainted with our parish community

Start coming to our 9am Sunday Mass with your child. This is a Family focussed Mass with special activities for the children to involve them in the parish community. Just turn up at church before 9am Mass, sit towards the front, and encourage your child to join in with the other children as invited by the priest.

Contact our Children's Ministry Coordinator

Arrange to meet with the Children's Ministry Coordinator either after 9am Mass or another time to discuss preparing your child for baptism. We run a Children's Baptism preparation program twice a year.

The Baptism Preparation Program

Is held over several weeks and includes;

- Two child-parent small group preparation sessions
- Presentation and anointing at a 9.00am Family Mass
- A practice in the church before the Baptism Ceremony

During the Preparation Program

We encourage you to continue to bring your child to the 9.00am Family Mass and to participate in Children's Liturgy and other activities for children held in this Mass.

Other Baptism Details

The baptism ceremony is a special family time. It is also special for our parish community, because baptism is the time when the Christian community welcomes a new member into its midst.

As such, children being baptised must have at least one godparent who is a fully initiated, practising Catholic over the age of 16. The godparents' role is to support the parents in raising their child in the Catholic faith. They are called to take a special interest in their godchild's personal and spiritual development.

The Church recognises that parents are the first educators of their children in the faith. As such, baptising a child when neither parent is Catholic is not automatic. It requires careful thought and discernment by both the family and the parish. Going to a Catholic school is a support, but it does not replace the Catholic upbringing a child receives at home.

