

Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism in our Parishes.

Congratulations.

Congratulations on the birth of your child. **Asking to have your child baptised is a particularly important step in your young child's life. In doing so you are accepting responsibility for bringing up your child in the catholic faith.** To do what is best for your child, you should begin by choosing a Christian name carefully.

Choosing a Name.

At least one of the names should be a recognised Christian name, so that the child can find out about that saint or holy person. 'There are no better examples than the saints, and no better helpers. If my namesake is a saint, I have a friend with God.' (YouCat: Catechism of the Catholic Church for Young People, No. 22)

The Two Sponsors.

Please choose the sponsors carefully. A sponsor must be 16 years of age, **already baptised and confirmed in the catholic faith.** The sponsor should be a person who will be an influence for good in helping your child to live the Christian life. It is usual to have two sponsors and those two names are entered in the Baptism Register.

Baptism Candle.

Each child is to have his/her own candle which may be used in the celebration of the next sacraments on your child's faith journey. **Also, during these COVID times, please bring a white towel or facecloth to dry the child's head after the baptism.**

Looking to the Future.....First Holy Communion...Confirmation.

'These children have been reborn in baptism. They are now called children of God, for so indeed they are. In Confirmation they will receive the fullness of God's Spirit. In Holy Communion they will share in the banquet of Christ's sacrifice, calling God their Father in the midst of the Church.' (From the Rite of baptism)

Booking the Baptism.

Usually, four weeks' notice must be given at St. Mary's Parish Office, St. Mary's Parish Church, Dungarvan, but for the present, as we work our way through the backlog owing to COVID-19, it will not be necessary to give four weeks' notice. Booking at this central location is essential to co-ordinate celebrations for **our three parishes**. Opening hours and contact details for the parish office are given below.

How many can attend the Ceremony?

Until further notice, four children and their families will be the maximum allowed at any one celebration. For each family, the maximum number to attend is 5 – the child, the parents and the two godparents. **When there is more than one family, a specific area of the church will be allocated to each family.**

Baptism Request Form and Civil Birth Certificate.

A Baptism Request Form is available in St. Mary's Parish Office.

The copy of the Civil Birth Certificate ensures that all details are correct when entered in the Parish Baptism Register after the baptism. **The completed Baptism Request Form and the copy of the Civil Birth Certificate must be returned to the parish office.** Returning these essential documents to a central location ensures that the members of the parish team are aware of baptisms scheduled for a particular date. Baptisms are celebrated on fixed dates on Saturday evening at 6pm in St. Mary. In the other churches of the group of parishes, the times may vary subject both to the availability of a priest and to his commitments later that evening. The dates and times for all churches are fixed in advance.

Offering.

On the occasion of a baptism, an offering is given the priest who celebrates the sacrament of baptism. Keeping in mind the amount of money spent on other aspects of the celebration, a generous offering should be given. This offering goes to the Diocesan Clergy Common Fund which supports your priests.

Contact Details.

St. Mary's Parish Office, St. Mary's Parish Church, Dungarvan. Tel: 058 42374.

Office hours: Monday to Friday: 9am – 1pm and 2pm – 4.30pm (3.30pm on Fridays)

Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Email: dungarvanparishoffice@gmail.com

Website: www.dungarvanparish.ie