



Church of St John the Evangelist  
39, Duncan Terrace, London N1 8AL  
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## Your baby's **Baptism**

Congratulations! The birth of your child is an occasion of great joy for you and your family. Our church community shares this joy as you present your child for baptism.

You desire the best for your child and that means beginning to share your faith in a wonderful and unique way. As parents, God wants to entrust to your care your child's unique gift of faith in this sacrament. It is like the precious mustard seed which, through your careful guidance and love over the years, will grow into the magnificent tree which Jesus calls the Kingdom of God, and the promise of eternal life. Through baptism your child will become a child of God in Christ. Baptism is also the first sacrament of initiation into the community of faith and the life and mission of the Church.

Please read this leaflet carefully and fill in the registration form on the next page.

Rev. Fr. Howard James  
Parish Priest.

**What should I do?** Please complete as much of the form as possible and return it to the parish office, 39, Duncan Terrace. Keep this half of the leaflet for the dates of the course. If you live in another parish you will need to bring a letter of permission from your actual parish priest.

**Dates?** All baptisms must be preceded by preparation. Before any dates can be arranged or confirmed the diocese asks that you simply attend Baptism Preparation sessions. At St. John's baptism preparation consists of two evening sessions and is held about once every two months. The dates for the first part of this year are:

**7.30pm on 2nd & 9th September 2008  
4th & 11th November 2008**

Dates for baptism can be arranged at the end of the session.

**Time** - Baptism takes place either during Mass on most Sundays or, outside Mass, on the first Saturday of the month but not during Advent or Lent (except in emergencies.)

**Baptismal Names** - your child's name is unique and careful thought goes into choosing it, but of course the name should have a Christian sentiment. It goes without saying that the best names to choose are those of the saints. It means that we have a patron (a friend in heaven) praying for us. You can follow the link 'saints and angels' at [www.catholic.org](http://www.catholic.org) for a full list of saints' names.

**Godparents** - the role of Godparents is very important. They will help you nurture the seed of faith in your child and help you to see that your child is brought up in the living-out of faith.

Godparents are very welcome to attend the course. At least one Godparent must be a practising Catholic who has been confirmed. Please speak to a priest before inviting other people to be Godparents.

**Church Offering** - it is customary to make an offering to the Church on these occasions. As a guide, the amount should be in proportion to the other expenses involved in the baptism and is for the support of the church.

**BAPTISM REGISTRATION FORM**  
**Church of St John the Evangelist, Islington**  
Please complete as much as you can in BLOCK CAPITALS

SURNAME OF CHILD \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD'S CHRISTIAN NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

DATE of BIRTH \_\_\_\_\_

FATHER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Catholic/Non Catholic

MOTHER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Catholic/Non Catholic

MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

POST CODE \_\_\_\_\_ TEL: \_\_\_\_\_

NAMES & RELIGION OF GODPARENTS

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

At least **ONE** Godparent must be a Roman Catholic who has received the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation.

To register for the course please print out and sign the section below and return this half of the form to the parish office. If your child is yet to be born you will obviously not be able to complete everything.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**FOR OFFICE USE** Date & Time.....

Minister.....

Being baptised at the Church of St John the Evangelist is about being received into a living and worshipping community. The great sign of this community is our coming together as a parish to celebrate Mass on a Sunday. There are many other ways in which the parish works and worships together. In partnership with parents and the parish primary school we seek to help parents teach their children about the faith by word and example.

In the baptism service parents take on a commitment, which is summarised as follows,

*You have come to present this child for baptism. On your part you must make it your constant care to bring him/her up in the practice of the faith. If your faith makes you ready to accept this responsibility, renew now the vows of your own baptism. Reject sin; profess your faith in Christ Jesus. This is the faith of the Church. This is the faith in which this child is about to be baptised.*

If you would like your child to be baptised in this parish you would, of course, be attending Mass here and you should live within the parish boundary. If you do not live in the parish but come to Mass here then you will need a note of permission from the parish priest where you live. The Baptism Preparation Course is designed to help you understand the ceremony and to support you in your commitment.

### **DECLARATION OF PARENTS**

We understand the commitment we are undertaking in asking to have our child baptised. We promise to do all that we can, by word and example, to bring this child up in the Catholic faith.

Mother's signature.....

Father's signature.....

Date.....