



What is Baptism?

One of the meanings of the word blessing is **'to say good things'** In Baptism God says the following about your child: that he/she is precious, is a child of God, is an heir to the kingdom, and is freed from Original Sin. In Baptism your child is truly blessed. Baptism is a Sacrament, one of the special signs we have in the Church that make visible God's love for us. By asking for Baptism we show our belief in God, and by giving us Baptism God has shown faith in us. Like good parents who sacrifice themselves for their children, God's Son sacrificed Himself on the cross for our salvation. God's continual commitment to us demonstrates how precious and valued we are to Him.

In St Patrick's, Mayobridge we have a Baptism Team who has completed the required baptism course. The team provides a valuable service in the parish and members meet young and new parents and aid them in the important preparation for the Baptism of their children.

ST PATRICK'S PARISH BAPTISMS

Baptisms take place on the first Sunday of each month at 12.15pm in St Patrick's Church. All baptisms must be pre booked through our parish office, **Tel (028) 30850270.**

The Baptism preparation meeting is on the **last Thursday of the month at 7.30pm in the Convent.** All parents (and godparents if possible) are invited to attend. Baptism registration cards will be available for completion at these meetings.

Please advise family members possibly travelling home for these Baptisms that Baptisms are the first Sunday of each month.

These arrangements take effect from January 2020.

The Signs and Symbolism of Baptism

Sign of the Cross

A sign on something shows its origins or ownership. The sign of the cross is the mark of Christians for Jesus Christ died on the cross. Parents and god-parents trace it on the child's forehead to show that the baby belongs to Christ, who now offers his help and grace to face and overcome the sufferings of life.



Water



This is for cleansing and is a sign that our sins are washed away. Baptism cleanses us of original sin with which we are all born and, in the baptism of adults, of every sin committed prior to baptism. Water is also necessary for life and so is a sign, too, that the life of the risen Christ is ours.

Oils

Oil of Baptism is olive oil rubbed on the breast of the baby, just as athletes used to rub themselves with oil to strengthen and prepare for the fight ahead. Oil of Chrism is a mixture of olive oil and balsam (sweet-smelling ointment) and is rubbed on the crown of the head. It is a sign of sealing with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The profession of faith which you make on behalf of your child at baptism will later be confirmed personally by your child in the sacrament of confirmation when Oil of Chrism will be used again. The oils are blessed by our Apostolic Administrator Eamon Martin on Maundy (or Holy) Thursday in Newry Cathedral.



White Garment



Besides being useful for protection and warmth, clothes often express who we are and what we aspire to be. The colour white symbolises resurrection; in dressing the newly baptised in a white garment we are acknowledging that the life of the Resurrected Jesus and that His spirit is within them.

Candles

These symbolize Christ – the Light of the World. The baptismal candle is lit from the Paschal Candle, which stands near the Baptismal Font and on the Altar at Easter as a sign of the risen Christ. The baptismal candle reminds us that the light of Christ has entered the child's life; and its flame symbolizes the flame of faith which will burn through the life of your child.



Baptismal Register



Your baby's baptism will be recorded in the parish Baptismal Register. In the years ahead proof of baptism may be obtained in form of a certificate issued on the basis of this registration. Your child's confirmation, marriage or ordination will also be noted alongside this entry in the register.

Sponsors/Godparents

Sponsors or godparents have an important role in that they support the parents in bringing up their children in the faith. The Church therefore insists that at least one of the Sponsors is Catholic. Godparents should be over sixteen years of age, and Catholic sponsors should be individuals who practice their faith. Where two Godparents are chosen one must be male and the other female.

Name

The name a person is given at baptism is a sign of identity; it is how he or she will be known for the rest of their life. Think for a moment how many times you will hear that name during the course of your child's life. How often you will call that name in exasperation or tenderness! How often you will hear others call your child by their name! In all the ways that name will be used in the future it will have a very special significance for you. You chose the name! It is interesting that we use the term 'Christian name' to describe a person's first name. Traditionally parents often chose the name of a saint for their child. Perhaps you might think about giving your child the name of a saint who has inspired or influenced you. Giving your child at least one saint's name could be your way of asking this saint to pray for your child.



**Baptismal
Font with
Paschal
Candle and
Baptismal
Tree in
St Patrick's
Church
Mayobridge**

Baptism Card

A Baptism Card must be completed when arranging the date and time of the baptism.

MAYOBRIDGE PARISH BAPTISM CARD

(PLEASE RETURN CARD TO PRIEST BEFORE BAPTISM)

Name of Child _____

Date of Birth _____ Date of Baptism _____

Father's Name _____

Mother's Full Maiden Name _____

Parent's Address _____

Sponsor's Names _____ Priest's Name _____

(1) _____

(2) _____

Tel Number _____

(Details should match those of Civil Register of Birth)

DATA PROTECTION: If you wish your child's name to be in Bulletin and Website

Do you also consent to being contacted re Annual Baptismal Mass?

Please Tick Box and Sign:

☐	
--------------------------	--

The Family of God, the Church, welcomes your child into its faith community in Mayobridge Parish with love and prayers for the future peace and happiness of your family.

