



MARY, QUEEN OF THE FAMILY PARISH, BLACKTOWN

'My child wants to become a Catholic.

'I want my child to become a Catholic. What do I do now?'

We welcome you and look forward to journeying with you in this time of preparation and enquiry to become a 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 characterized by certain beliefs, values and patterns of worship. The Catholic Church is not just a 'what' (a religion) but a 'who' (a people, a community).

Becoming a Catholic is a serious commitment. It is not simply a 'membership badge', but a commitment to a community and a way of living. It is something that embraces who we are and what we do every day of our lives.

Please read the outline below to help you prepare for this journey.

Enquiry

Become acquainted with our parish community (if not already). One of the best ways to do this is to start coming to the Sunday Mass with your child. On Sunday mornings, Children's Liturgy is celebrated at 9.30am at St Michael's Church and 10.00am at St Patrick's Church. Children's Liturgy offers activities, discussion and prayer to teach them about Jesus and to involve them in the parish community. Encourage your child to join in with the other children. Or, you can also join them at the Children's Liturgy.

If you have been coming to church for a while and your child is still keen to be baptised you can contact the Parish Office to arrange an appointment to discuss your Child's baptism.

Preparation

After meeting with someone from the Sacramental Team, if Baptism is considered the next step, we will invite you, your child and their godparent/s to attend our Baptism preparation sessions for children who are preparing to be baptised. This will take place over a few weeks with take-home material for your child to complete and to discuss as a family.

During the preparation sessions we encourage you to continue to bring your child to Mass and to participate in Children's Liturgy. In this way they continue to learn about Jesus and to develop the habit of coming to church and being with the community.

Parents teach and model the Catholic faith

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. Parents are the first teachers of faith to their children. In a situation where neither parent is a Catholic, it is important that someone from our Sacramental Team discuss with you what support is available to your child.

Godparent/s

The child to be baptised must have at least one godparent who is a fully initiated, practising Catholic over the age of 16. The godparent/s stand beside the parents during the ceremony. Their 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. Your child's godparent/s are also invited to attend the preparation sessions.

Baptism

A date for Baptism will be arranged with you at the time of your appointment with a member of the Sacramental Team. This can be during a weekend Mass or after Mass on a Sunday. This is a wonderful celebration that can be shared with family, friends and members of the Mary, Queen of the Family Community as it is the time when the Christian community welcomes a new member into its midst.

What next?

As your child grows, they will continue to learn about Jesus, pray, attend Mass and go to Children's Liturgy of the Word. The children continue in the Sacramental Process and receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation. Further information & enrolment details are available on the parish website and in the bulletin during the enrolment period.

Please contact the parish office at admin@mqofblacktown.org.au or 9622 1125 if you have any questions/need clarification.

We look forward to walking on this journey with you.

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Visit our parish website www.mqofblacktown.org.au