



Baptism Guide



Jesuit Church of The Immaculate Conception

FARM STREET

INTRODUCTION

We have produced this booklet to help you with your preparations for your child's baptism. Please take the time to read through our process.

ENQUIRY STAGE

To have your child baptised at Farm Street, this should be your parish church, or the church that you regularly attend, or there should be a family connection to Farm Street Church or to the Society of Jesus.

If Farm Street is not your regular church of attendance, we will need a letter of permission from your local Parish Priest or the Priest of your church of regular attendance, so that your baptism may take place here.

Initial enquiries regarding the use of Farm Street Church are handled via our website on our sacraments page where you can fill our baptism enquiry form.

If you would prefer to enquire in writing, please do so to the Parish Secretary, 114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH. Your letter of enquiry should contain your names and address with contact details, the baby's name and the proposed date

(approximately) for the baptism. Along with your letter, please include the completed Baptism Information Form.

After submitting an enquiry, we suggest that you come along to Mass some Sunday and meet the clergy. There is coffee in the Hall following the 9.30am and 11am Masses.

The Parish Secretary will be in touch very soon after receiving your enquiry. Dates and times should be discussed with the parish secretary, who will liaise with a priest to confirm these.

Normally you should start making enquiries no less than six weeks before the proposed baptism date. Parents should try to arrange so that their child is baptised within the first few weeks of birth. ‘As soon as possible after the birth, indeed even before it, parents should approach the church to ask for the sacrament for their child, and to be themselves duly prepared for it.’ (Can. 867)

Please note that the pastoral guidelines of the diocese advise that the baptism of an infant should be delayed if a “well-founded hope that the child will be brought up in the Catholic religion” is in doubt

Infant baptisms normally take place on Sunday afternoons at 2.15pm or 3.15pm. However, we can be flexible with days.

PREPARATION

Meeting a Priest

The priest here will meet with you some time before the baptism to discuss the meaning of the Sacrament and the nature of the ceremony.

Baptism Preparation Class

If this is your first child you are having baptised, you will be expected to attend a baptism preparation class. This is organized by the parish catechist. Parents and godparents are expected to attend.

Baptismal Name

Choosing a name for your child is very personal and this choice is usually made by the time the baptism is being arranged, but please bear in mind that a child should have a Saint's name as part of his or her Christian identity.

Godparents

One godparent is sufficient, although you may have two: one male and one female. The Church sets the following requirements for godparents:

1. be designated by the one to be baptized, by the parents or the person who takes their place, or in their absence by the pastor or minister and have the aptitude and intention of fulfilling this function;
2. have completed the sixteenth year of age, unless the diocesan bishop has established another age, or the pastor or minister has granted an exception for a just cause;
3. be a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the most holy sacrament of the Eucharist and who leads a life of faith in keeping with the function to be taken on;
4. not be bound by any canonical penalty legitimately imposed or declared;
5. not be the father or mother of the one to be baptized.

A baptized person who belongs to a non-Catholic ecclesial community can be recorded as a Christian witness, alongside a Catholic godparent. (Can. 874)

Photography

Photographs and video recording are permitted but please note that no artificial lighting, whether floodlight or flash, is ever allowed.

Parish Hall

The Arrupe Hall may be available for hire for a reception after the ceremony – please check with the parish secretary for details.

Order of Service

An Order of Service will be made available to you when you meet with the Priest to discuss arrangements.

Readings

Two Scripture readings should be chosen for the baptism. While you are free to choose your own appropriate reading from the Bible, a helpful list will be provided to you when you meet with the Priest to discuss arrangements.

Donations

We are gratefully for any contribution you can make to our church.

A donation of £150-£200 might be a guideline (Gift-aid envelopes are available for UK tax-payers). You can send your donation by bank electronic transfer, Paypal, or by cheque. Cheques should be made out to “Farm Street Church” and if sent by post addressed to the Parish Secretary.

www.farmstreet.org.uk