

# Being a Godparent:



## **Being a godparent - an important role in the life of a Christian.**

**Congratulations, you have been asked to be a godparent, this is a great joy and privilege. It is also a serious responsibility for you and your godchild.**

In the baptismal ceremony you will be asked if you are prepared to support your godchild and the parents in their life of faith. That means you will be a person who takes Christian faith seriously and wants to enable others to grow in faith. In that way you represent the larger Christian community that wants to support the faith of this child and these parents.

What is a godparent?

- A baptised Christian who has been confirmed.
- A friend or family member of the parents
- Someone who takes their faith seriously
- A person who represents the wider Christian community in their role of supporting a child and its parents in their faith
- Someone who will be there as the child grows up to share their wisdom, their love and their faith.

A child can have two or more godparents, but at least one must be a practising Catholic. Talk to the priest or catechist about what this means.

The most important thing you can do for your godchild is to pray for him or her. Your prayers will be those of the whole Christian community asking God to shower his love on this child, to enable him/her to grow wisely in the ways of the kingdom and flourish in this world.

During the Baptismal ceremony a candle is lit for the child from the great Paschal candle as a sign of faith being handed on. That candle is given to the parents and godparents as a sign of their responsibility of nurturing the faith in that child. The priest says to them:

***“Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. This child of yours has been enlightened by Christ. he/she is to walk always as a child of the light. May he/she keep the flame of light in his/her heart. When the Lord comes may he/she go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.”***

If you wish to discuss your role or seek advice, we will always be very happy to talk things through with you.

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