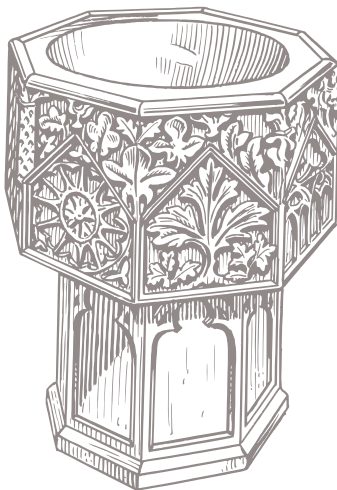




Baptism

A guide for Parents
&
Godparents



Congratulations!

We're absolutely overjoyed that you've decided to have your child baptised here in the Parish of Jarrow and Simonside. Baptism is the start of an amazing journey of faith for your child and a special day for all your friends and family.

What is baptism?

All children are precious to God and God longs to welcome all people into his family, the Church. Baptism is the way that we do this. In being baptised your child is beginning their life as a Christian and the life-long journey of being a disciple of Jesus, where they come to know God and inherit the eternal life that God promises.

Baptism is a solemn act. In the baptism service those being baptised will first be anointed with holy oil to remind us they have been chosen by God; washed with holy water to show the washing away of their sins and given a lighted candle to shine the light of Jesus to the world around them.

Baptism is an invitation. As a result of baptism we are called to follow the teaching of Jesus. It is the parents, with the help of the godparents, who promise to bring their child up as a follower of Jesus, and so they make solemn promises to do this in the baptism service.

Baptism is a visible sign. Through baptism we become members of God's Church, becoming united with Christians throughout the world. Baptism will make your child a beloved member of God's family.



Godparents

The Church requires all children being baptised to have Godparents who will promise that they will support the parents in teaching the child about the Christian faith, be a good example to them and, most importantly, to pray for them as they grow up.

Because of the promises to be made, Godparents should be:

- at least 16 years of age
- ideally be both baptised and confirmed, but it is possible to be a godparent if you have been baptised only.
- The usual number of Godparents is three- but it is possible to be baptised with fewer.

Please note: if you are thinking of having more than four godparents then this will need to be agreed with the minister at the baptism preparation meeting.

Baptism FAQs

Is there a fee for baptisms? No. There is no fee but there will be an opportunity to make a donation to the Church on the day itself if you would like to.

When do baptisms take place? Baptisms usually take place on a Sunday afternoon at 1pm in the church of your choice (St Paul's, St Peter's, St John's or St Simon's). A specific date will be discussed with you at your meeting with the minister.



What happens next?

1. Please complete the form attached with this document and return it to Leanne in the Parish Office at your earliest convenience.
2. You will then receive an invitation to come and worship with us in church, where you can meet other members of the church community that your child will become a part of.
3. At the end of this service you will be able to meet with the minister to discuss all of the information on the baptism form, talk through the baptism service itself and ask the minister any questions you might have.

Please note: all details, including the date of the baptism, will only be confirmed after you have met with the minister to discuss the baptism.

The Parish of Jarrow and Simonside welcomes you!

Baptism is entry into the life of the Church and all members of the parish community are so looking forward to welcoming you all into our churches as your child begins their exciting journey of faith with Jesus.

Be assured that we are praying for you all as you begin this important journey in your child's life.

