



## As a Godparent you can help by:

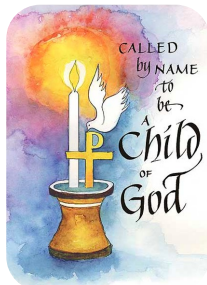
- ◆ Setting a good example of living in a positive way.
- ◆ Loving and respecting others.
- ◆ Caring for those less fortunate than us.
- ◆ Showing a responsible attitude to the resources of our world.
- ◆ Encouraging your godchild to learn about Jesus.

### Some ways to do this:

- ◆ Following Jesus' example in your own life.
- ◆ Sharing or giving Bible storybooks and books of suitable prayers.
- ◆ Praying for your godchild.
- ◆ Accompanying your godchild and family to church e.g. at Christmas and Easter, or when you visit.
- ◆ Keeping in touch and marking special occasions in your godchild's life:
  - o Birthdays o Christmas
  - o Anniversary of baptism
  - o Confirmation o Exams

You could send a card and/or gift or for an older child, a text message.

- ◆ Supporting your godchild when he/she comes to confirmation... and beyond.



## A Godparent's Prayer

Loving God,

You send out Your Spirit to touch the hearts of all people, so that they may believe in You and in Jesus whom You sent. Look kindly on all families preparing their children as they prepare for the sacrament of Baptism. Open their hearts to the joy of this occasion and bring to fulfilment the good work that You have begun in them.

As I journey with \_\_\_\_\_, make me an instrument and example of Your love. Teach me to hold sacred what is holy in others, and to be patient with what I do not understand. Deepen my faith in the Gospel and help me to pass it on by my example.

When hesitant or afraid, let me be a source of encouragement; and

for you, my Godchild I Pray that you;

**BELIEVE**, with God's help you can achieve your goals,

**FIND** the best in others,

**CELEBRATE** what you have each morning and learn something new each day,

**PROMISE** only what you can deliver, then deliver more than you promise,

**KEEP** that childlike sense of wonder alive in you,

**DISCOVER** your creative spirit and are never afraid to colour outside the lines,

**TRUST** with the innocence of a baby and the wisdom of an aged sage,

**CHOOSE** to love life with optimism and joy,

**EMBRACE** the unknown and meet each new experience with anticipation,

have **COURAGE** to be yourself and not a copy of others,

**DELIGHT** in the wonder of nature,

**TREASURE** your friendships and choose friends that bring out the best in you,

**LOVE** someone so much it takes your breath away,

**KNOW** you are a special person. Precious, cherished and most of all loved.

I humbly accept the ministry of Godparent and pray that You will continue to guide me, support me and sustain me. I ask this in trust through Christ our Lord. **Amen**



## Godparent Information

A Godparent is always

there in

faith, love and prayer

# Congratulations!

*You have been asked to become a Godparent at a Baptism !*

## What is Baptism?

Baptism for children is sometimes called *Christening*.

Baptism goes back to the time of Jesus. A preacher called John the Baptist was teaching people about God and how they should live their lives in the good way God wanted for them. Many people were baptised in the water of the River Jordan, showing their willingness to have their bad ways washed away, and to try to live God's way from then on. Jesus was baptised in the river Jordan at the start of his mission.

Christians are baptised today to follow Jesus' example, and to show that they believe and follow him. It is also the formal way of joining Christ's church.

*Baptism is a conscious and committed decision to be named and become a member of the Christian community of faith, joined fully in the life, ministry and mission of Jesus in our world where Father, Son and Spirit; heals, strengthens, comforts and graces the baptised person to begin and live out their lifelong journey of faith accompanied and supported by the family of believers. We believe that the welcoming of a new Christian among us is truly a cause for celebration for all in our Church.*

## What is a Godparent?



In today's world, the presence of a trusted friend or significant adult has never been more important. At the baptism service you will promise, along with the child's parents:

- to pray for your godchild and draw him or her, by your own example, into the community of faith (the church) and to be his or her companion in following Christ.
- to care for your godchild and help him or her to become active in the life and worship of Christ's church.

Being a God Parent requires a big commitment from you: it will involve sharing your faith, preparing them with their parents, parish and school to become full members of the Church.

It is an **ACTIVE** role.

## What are the requirements for Godparents?

*The church requires at least one godparent who is a practicing, confirmed Catholic age 16 or older. That godparent's name is entered into the parish record book as the "official" godparent or sponsor for baptism.*

*If more than two godparents, one or two may have their names entered into the book as "official" godparents, and the others can be "honorary" godparents. All the godparents' personal relationship to the child and to you as a family is the same whether their names are recorded in the book or not.*

*If two godparents of the same sex, one can be the "official" godparent for the record book, and the other can be the "honorary" one.*

*Baptised non-Catholic Christians may not be "official" godparents for the record book, but they may be Christian witnesses for your child.*

*People who are not baptised Christians cannot be sponsors for baptism, since they themselves are not baptised. However, you may certainly invite non-Christian friends or relatives to attend the celebration and to have a special place in your child's life, sharing with your child their own faith traditions*

