



# ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH

## INFANT BAPTISM REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION

### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Infant baptism can be held on Saturday or during a weekday with the confirmation of the Rector. Timing of the baptism to be confirmed on the availability of the church.
2. All names in the form should be given in full as recorded in their NRIC / Birth Certificate / Passport. The baptism certificate is an official document and would be required in future for such events as confirmation and registration of marriage in the church.
3. You are required to have at least one godparent for your child and the official limit on the Baptism Certificate is two godparents. The godparents must have received the **Sacrament of Confirmation** and are **practising Catholics**.
4. Parents and godparent(s) are to take care that the baptism name given is acceptable to the Christian faith.
5. Both parents and all godparents are required to attend the infant baptism briefing before your child is baptised. Do read and familiarise yourself with the important roles and the procedures below.

### CATECHISM CLASS

6. Being a non-parish church, there are limited pastoral programmes in St Joseph's Church to cater for the faith formation of your child. We regret that we do not have the facilities to conduct catechism classes, as such you are required to undertake to bring your child to the Catechism Class in a parish closest to your place of residence, as declared in the application form. Please sign the said undertaking in the Infant Baptism Application Form.

### IN CHOOSING GODPARENTS

7. The responsibility for the child to know and follow Jesus and learn more about the faith is first and foremost borne by the parents. It is also shared, supported and nurtured by the godparents and the Catholic community.
8. The responsibility of choosing godparents is a serious one that should be thought about, discussed and prayed about. Godparents should be persons who:
  - Will be good examples to your child of what it means to follow Jesus.
  - Fully understand and accept the responsibility that they are undertaking.
  - Are willing to make a long-term commitment to you and your child.
  - Agree to assist and support the parents in the Catholic upbringing of the child, by word, action and good example, especially when the baptised godchild is experiencing trials in the practice of his/her faith.



9. Parents may choose up to 2 official godparents. The qualifications for a godparent are as follow:-

- There is to be only 1 male godparent or 1 female godparent or one of each.
- That he/she be, ordinarily, not less than 16 years of age.
- That he/she is a practising Catholic who attends Sunday Mass regularly.
- That he/she be Catholic and has received the Sacrament of the Eucharist and Confirmation.
- That he/she not be one of the parents of the person being baptised.
- That he/she is not under a canonical penalty.

**If the above statements are true of your choice of sponsor/godparent, we ask you to invite your sponsor/godparent/s to sign the Declaration by godparent(s) in the Infant Baptism Application Form.**

10. A baptised Christian who belongs to another denomination, may not be admitted as a godparent except as a witness to baptism and together with a Catholic godparent.

11. The parents of a child who is to be baptised, and those who are to undertake the office of sponsors, are to be suitably instructed on the meaning of this Sacrament and the obligations attached to it.

### **IN CHOOSING BAPTISM NAME**

12. The baptismal name for the child is to be a saint's name or should reflect a Christian mystery or virtue; this is in accordance with the Catechism of the Catholic Church. A suggested website you could refer to for Catholic Saints' names is: [www.catholic-saints.info](http://www.catholic-saints.info)

13. Please refer to Appendix 1 on **Notes and Archdiocesan Liturgy Commission Mandate on the Baptism Name of the Infant / Child.**

### **APPLICATION FOR BAPTISM**

14. Please fill out the Infant Baptism Application Form. Copies of this form are also available at the Administration Office.

15. The following documents are to be submitted together with the Infant Baptism Form. The submitted copies must be clear and legible. Any documents that are not in English must be **translated into English by an official translator.**

- i. Birth Certificate of infant to be baptised
- ii. Catholic Marriage Certificate of infant / child's parents
- iii. Civil Marriage Certificate of infant / child's parents
- iv. Godparent(s)' Baptism Certificates
- v. Godparent(s)' Catholic Confirmation Certificates

*\* Please note that to register your infant / child for baptism, duly completed applications and documents **MUST** be handed in to the Administration Office at least 1 week before the intended date of baptism. If documentations are incomplete or unclear on submission, application will be moved to the next baptism date.*



## **BAPTISM PREPARATORY BRIEFING**

16. The baptism preparation briefing is held on Monday evenings at 7pm.
17. This session covers the significance of the Sacrament of Baptism, Christian parenthood as a vocation, the role of godparents and community in your child's faith formation. It also covers the practical aspects of what to expect during the Rite of Baptism.
18. Both parents and godparent(s) are required to attend the Infant Baptism preparation session, failing which the infant will not be baptised.
19. Details on this talk and briefing of the Ceremony are as follow Details on this briefing are as follow:
  - Date : Monday
  - Time : 7.00pm
  - Venue : Parochial House Level 2, or as determined by the baptising minister.