

The Baptism of your child

at

St. Simon's Parish, Rowville

PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH OFFICE: 2 Taylor's Lane, Rowville. 3178
Phone: 9764 4058. Fax: 9764 5154
Email: office@stsimonsparish.com.au
Website: www.stsimonsparish.com.au

PARISH STAFF: Fr. Kevin Dillon; *Parish Priest.*
Mrs Loretta Hughes; *Pastoral Associate*
Mrs. Marialisa Mandarino, *Sacrament Co-ordinator*
Mrs Christina Liew; *Finance Administration*
Mrs Felicia Ahumada; *Secretary*
Mrs Abbie Ferdinands; *Secretary*

OFFICE HOURS: 9.00am to 4.00pm Monday to Friday

PARISH SCHOOL: 2 Taylor's Lane, Rowville. 3178
Phone: 9755 4222 Fax: 9764 5170

PRINCIPAL: Mr. Philip Hesse

MASS TIMES:

WEEKEND MASS: Saturday Vigil: 6.00pm & Sunday: 8.00am, 9.30am, 11.00am

WEEK-DAY MASS: Monday to Saturday: 9.15am, Tuesday: 7.00pm

Dear Parents

We are pleased that you have chosen to have your child baptised at St. Simon's Parish. This choice means that faith is important to you as parents, and that you recognise the important part that God plays in your life. God has been with you through all the events of your life - sometimes consciously, other times at a distance. There may have been times when you have turned to God, and times when you have turned away from God. But throughout the journey of your life, God has been with you.

Baptism is the beginning of a new journey of faith for both you and your child. Baptism embraces you into God's family of the Church and can give you a sense of "belonging". In Baptism, we become God's adopted children through Jesus in His Death and Resurrection.

We pray that you will feel welcomed into the Catholic Community at Rowville. Your child can grow in the Church more fully by the two other "Sacraments of Initiation": Confirmation and Eucharist. You will accompany your child on these stages of growth in faith.

As part of the process of welcoming your child into our Catholic parish community we would like a named photo in the church foyer in the weeks close to the celebration of Baptism. This enables parishioners to be aware of whom they are welcoming to our parish community, promising their support. The **photo may be handed in at the Parish Office, or brought with you on your Baptism Preparation evening.**

At the beginning of the Baptism ceremony, the priest will say to you: *“You have asked to have your child baptised. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training your child in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring your child up to keep God’s commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?”* You will be asked to answer: *“We do.”*

We pray for God’s grace and guidance to be given you as you undertake the responsibility of raising your child in the Catholic Faith.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BAPTISM

1. GODPARENTS:

Normally there are two Godparents for Baptism – at least one of whom should be a baptised and confirmed Catholic. The role of Godparents is *“to help the parents in their duty as Christian mothers and fathers.”* They should be willing to take an active interest in your child’s journey of faith. A person baptised in another Christian denomination can participate in the ceremony in the same way as a Catholic Godparent, but, strictly speaking, they are termed a *“Christian Witness”*.

2. WHITE STOLE: **provided by the parish.**

Towards the end of the Baptismal ceremony, the priest will ask a Godparent (usually the Godmother) to place a white *“garment”* on the child as an outward sign of the dignity shared by God with the child. We encourage the use of a Baptismal stole. This stole may be personalised and decorated with baptismal symbols if you wish. When the time comes, your child will be able to wear that Baptismal stole as a sign of the connection between the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation.

3. CANDLE: **provided by the parish.**

After your child has been clothed in the white garment, a Godparent (usually the Godfather) will be invited to come forward with the Baptism candle as a sign that the child is commissioned to *“carry the light of Christ”* by the integrity of their life. You may wish to ask the Godparents or grandparents to personalise the candle. They can inscribe the child’s name and the date of Baptism. Beautifully decorated candles are made by the Benedictine nuns in the Yarra Ranges and are available to you at the Preparation evening.



To help meet the costs involved in providing Baptism for your child, we request an offering of \$80.00 per child. This should be either handed in a the Baptism Preparation Session (see below), or delivered to the Parish Office (2 Taylor’s Lane)

PREPARATION, RITE OF RECEPTION & BAPTISM

Baptism Preparation Session: Wednesdays @ 7.30pm **Venue:** Parish Centre

Duration: 60 Minutes *(The Session will be greatly assisted if you do NOT have your child (children) with you, so please arrange for babysitting, both for your sake and for the sake of other attending parents).*

Baptism Rite of Welcome During Weekend Mass: Your choice of either Saturday 6pm or Sunday 11.00am

At this Mass your child will be formally welcomed by the Parish Community and receive the stole to be used at Baptism.

Please arrive 10 minutes before Mass begins, and introduce yourselves to the priest celebrating the Mass.

If an emergency arises and you are unable to attend the Welcome Ceremony, please contact the Parish Office to make another booking. If it is a “last minute” emergency, please phone Fr. Kevin Dillon on 0421 777 360.

Please note that the Rite of Welcome must precede Baptism.

Baptism Ceremony: Baptisms are celebrated on the **First Saturday of each month at 11.30am**, and on the **Third Sunday of each month at 12.30p.m.** (following the 11.00 a.m. Mass).

Please return your ‘Application for Baptism’ form, indicating your preferred dates, and providing a postcard sized photo of your child

Your preferred dates cannot be taken as confirmed until you have received an email from the Parish Office confirming those dates, so please do not issue invitations etc. until you have received that email, which will be sent soon after you have submitted your “Application for Baptism” form.

Baptism Preparation Session Wednesdays 7.30pm	Parish Welcome 6 pm Saturdays, 11 am Sundays	Baptism Ceremony
December 5th 2018	16th & 17th December	
January 9th	13th & 14th January	Saturday January 5 Sunday January 20
January 9th February 6th	13th & 14th January 9th & 10th February	Saturday February 2, Sunday February 17
February 6th	23rd & 24th February	Saturday March 2nd
March 6th	9th & 10th March	Sunday March 17th
March 7th	9th & 10th March 23rd & 24th March	Saturday March 30th
April 03rd	7th & 8th April 13th & 14th April	Sunday April 28th (due to Easter)
April 03rd	13th & 14th April	Saturday May 4th
May 01st	04th & 05th May 11th & 12th May	Sunday May 19th
May 02nd	11th & 12th May 25th & 26th May	Saturday June 8th



Baptism Preparation Session Wednesdays 7.30pm	Parish Welcome 6 pm Saturdays, 11 am Sundays	Baptism Ceremony
June 5th	08th & 09th June	Sunday June 16th
June 5th	08th & 09th June 29th & 30th June	Saturday July 6th
July 03rd	13th & 14th July	Sunday July 21st
July 03rd	13th & 14th July 27th & 28th July	Saturday August 03,
August 07th August 07th	10th & 11th August 31st Aug & 1st September	Sunday August 18 Saturday September 7th
September 4th	7th & 8th September	Sunday September 15th
October 2nd	12th & 13th October	Sunday October 20th
October 2nd	12th & 13th October 26th & 27th October	Saturday November 2nd
November 6th November 7th	9th & 10th November 23rd & 24th November	Sunday November 17th Saturday December 7th
December 4th	7th & 8th December	Sunday December 16th



**Don't forget
to provide**