

Information about having your child baptised at St Clement's

- First of all, congratulations on the birth of your child! We are so pleased that you want to have your child baptised into the Catholic Church and thus pass on to your child the Catholic faith that you have inherited.
- We ask that you attend a preparation course which consists of both online and face to face sessions. This takes place over roughly a calendar month and is put on three times a year.
- Baptisms can be arranged once the course is completed. Most take place on a Saturday at 12 noon; they can also take place during Mass ; other times can be negotiated.
- Every candidate (the child to be baptised) requires Godparents, usually one male and one female, although you are free to choose more. The Godparents must be baptised and at least one of them must be a practising Catholic.
- At the service, the candidate is presented with a lighted candle which the church provides, although you can bring your own if preferred. You will need to provide a white shawl or blanket as well.
- Baptism is free, although it is customary to make an offering to the Priest, in accordance with your means, as much or as little as you like. Because people often ask for guidance , Fr Alexander gives the following advice: it should be a sum between £5 and £50.
- You may like to familiarise yourself with what will happen at the Baptism Rite in advance. You can find an online guide here [The Rite of Baptism for One Child](#)
- Family and friends can be involved in the Baptism by reading either a piece of Scripture or the Bidding Prayers. You will be provided with these nearer the time.
- The first part of the Baptism rite takes place as part of the programme in a Sunday Mass. This consists of the signing of the cross and the first anointing . The rest of the Rite then takes place at the Baptism proper. This ensures that the Church community is able to welcome its new member.
- Finally, do not worry! After having a baby, the baptism is the easy bit. We hope it will be a relaxed and joyful occasion for you, your family and friends.