



A Guide for Parents & Godparents
BAPTISM

**St. Peter's Parish Church,
Kirk Onchan, Isle of Man**

To be central to the life of Onchan,
Providing a Christian Witness,
Worship and Welcome to all.

Your child's baptism

We are delighted that you are thinking about baptism for your child. Your child is precious to you and precious to God. At baptism you promise to raise your child to know God loves them, and to help them to follow Jesus as a member of the Church.

Jesus was baptised himself as the sign of a new beginning. Baptism is a sacrament, a visible sign of God's love for us. In baptism, we thank God for his gift of life and publicly acknowledge His love. It marks a new start: a decision to follow Jesus Christ within the family of the church.

At this time you make the promises on behalf of your child. Later, they will be able to declare their faith for themselves at a Confirmation Service.

Baptism Policy

We offer baptism to any member of our congregation or any residents in the Parish of Onchan.

Timing

At St Peter's Church we normally offer Baptism services twice a month, on the first and third Sundays at 1.00 pm. We only book in two families for each service. To arrange a Baptism Service please contact the Parish Clerk on 675797 and she will send out an application form for you to complete.

Godparents

We encourage parents to choose three godparents. Ideally two should be the same gender as the child. Parents can also be Godparents. Godparents can be family members or friends, who you trust to take an interest in your child's spiritual welfare and pray for your child. Godparents must have been baptised themselves and over 18.

Preparation

No formal preparation is presently required, although it is hoped that parents will have been regularly coming to St Peter's for a few months.

The Service

The Service is set out on a pre-printed service sheet. The Vicar will lead everyone through it, particularly the parents and godparents, who make the promises for themselves and the child.

The Promises

During the baptism service, parents and godparents answer six questions, and declare their faith in front of the church community, and promise to help the child to follow Jesus:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

Parents and Godparents:

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of any sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

Then the congregation promise to support, encourage and pray for you and your child. The Vicar makes the sign of the cross on the child's head, and pours water over the child's head as a sign of being washed free from sin and beginning a new life with God. A candle is lit to symbolise Christ as the light of the world and the newly baptised child's new life in Christ.

And Afterwards?

The Mother's Union give the child a small gift.

We invite you to join our Peter Bear Club which is held twice a month on Mondays in the Parish Hall at 10.15. When your child is 3 years old they are welcome to come and join our Sunday School, which is held in the Parish Hall at the top of Royal Avenue. We also have a Lazer group for older children.

We hold a family service in church once a month, usually on the fourth Sunday. Young children are always welcome at any service. There are toys and books at the back of the church, and an area where children may play during a service, supervised by their parents.

Mums and Tots meet in the Parish Hall Friday afternoons between 1.15 and 3.00pm. There is a small cost and includes refreshments.

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