

**R E Q U E S T
F O R B A P T I S M**

Parents

.....

Mother's maiden name.....

Child's name.....

Child's DoB.....

Godparents.....

.....

.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Phone No. (H)

.....

Phone No. (M)

.....

E-mail address.....

Preferred date for Baptism.....

Date attending Preparation.....

Please return to

Parish Office

Our Lady of Lourdes RC Church, Hampton Court Way,
Thames Ditton KT7 0LP

Dates for 2012

Preparation evenings

- Wednesday 11th January
- Wednesday 8th February
- Wednesday 21st March
- Wednesday 16th May
- Wednesday 20th June
- Wednesday 12th September
- Wednesday 17th October
- Wednesday 28th November

Baptism Sunday 12.30pm

- Sunday 29th January
- Sunday 19th February
- Sunday 15th April
- Sunday 10th June
- Sunday 8th July
- Sunday 23rd September
- Sunday 4th November
- Sunday 16th December

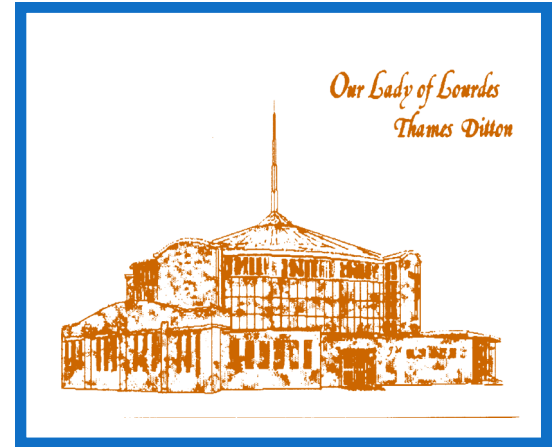
Parish Priest

Father Rob Esdaile 020 8398 6127
Parish Office 020 8398 2191

Team

Maeve Hughes 020 8398 2579
Sue Knight
Angie Henderson
Jo Wales

BAPTISM



**Baptising
your child
at
Our Lady of
Lourdes**



About Baptism

Most parents would agree that there is nothing like the feeling of holding a newborn child in your arms. The sense of wonder, the feeling of gratitude, and the awesome responsibility can be overwhelming. The experience of birth is a moment when we are aware that life is bigger than we are, that God is the source of life and love. Babies are gifts and they remind us that all life is a gift from God.

Just as God gave your child the gift of life, God wants to give your child the gift of faith. As you were an instrument of God in giving your child human life, so too, by having your child Baptised, you are an instrument through which God gives your child faith.

In Baptism the gift of faith is like a seed planted in fertile soil. Your love, your teaching and your example are the sun, the rain and the nourishment that allow the seed to grow.

Baptism is a wonderful celebration in which everyone has an important part to play. As co-creators with God and as the primary influence on your child's life, your role as a parent is essential. And so in the celebration of Baptism you also play an important role. You are the ones who present your child to the Church, give him or her a name, testify to the faith that you will share, and promise to be a good example to your child.

About Baptism

If you are returning to the practice of your faith the parish particularly want to support you, so we may ask you to delay your child's baptism until you have got to know the community a little. Similarly, if you are presenting an older child for baptism it is important that some preparation is done with the child appropriate to his or her age..

Preparation for Baptism

In order to prepare for your child's baptism it is requested that you attend an evening of presentation, discussion and information sharing prior to celebrating the sacrament. The purpose of the evening is to think and talk about the meaning of Baptism. We ask parents to attend for each child; this helps us focus on the fact that we wish to welcome each child as an individual into the community.

The evening will be held in one of the course leaders' home, on a mid week evening. Wednesday is the preferred evening but a flexible approach can be taken subject to numbers. Start time will be 8pm and sessions normally last a little over 2 hours. Exact details will be confirmed to you closer to the date. See dates on the reverse.

The evening is very informal and interactive and lively debates are encouraged.

What to do next

1. **Booking the Baptism**

Prior to the Baptism of your child Father Rob would like to meet with you. Please call Fr. Rob to arrange a mutually convenient time. This is an informal get together to meet up so as to get to know you, resolve any queries you may have, and agree dates.

2. **Attending a Preparation evening**

Before your child is baptised we ask you to attend a baptism preparation session. Please contact Maeve Hughes (see back of leaflet) to do this. She is available to answer any queries you may have.

3. **Choose your dates**

We have a "Baptism Sunday" about every 6 weeks through the year. On these days families wishing to have their children baptised may choose between a shared celebration with other families (at 12.30pm) or baptism at whichever mass the family normally attends

4. **Complete the attached form**

Please complete the form attached and return to the office.

Father Rob: 0208 398 6127

Parish Office - Phone No. 020 8398 2191

