



“The Christian community welcomes you with great joy. In its name I claim you for Christ our Saviour by the sign of his cross...”

“I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”



As part of the infant baptism process in our Parish we invite you to reflect on a *baptism*, perhaps your own, that of your older children, a friend, your godchild. Take that memory and move along the road you have been journeying since that time.

As you prepare to welcome the new member of your family into the Christian community it creates another opportunity to thank our God of Love for the blessings given and to journey closer to our Creator God who is the source of life and love and who fills your hearts with love for your children.

The baptism ceremony is a key celebration in the life of your child, the family and the Christian community. The community celebrates with you and prays for you. It is our commitment to support you as you nurture your child – allowing your little one to come to know and love our God of Love.

Even though with young children in the home there seems little time for much else than caring for them, please take the time to think about the ceremony. Allow yourself to prepare so you are able to participate fully in the celebration. Pray, that you as Christian parents will be able to love, guide, provide for and enjoy your child and your family life.

FAITH THAT GROWS

The faith development of young children begins in the first moments of life as they are held gently yet securely and the bond of trust between child and parent is begun. This presents a model for a relationship of love and trust with God. In the Catholic tradition, we baptise our young children early in their life Baptism being the first of our Sacraments of Initiation. Throughout these early years, children are drawn into a relationship and understanding of Jesus that lays the foundation for them to celebrate the sacraments of Confirmation and Eucharist, when they are about seven or eight years old. Thus completing their initiation into the Christian community.

As the first educator of your children, within the environment of your home - the domestic church – you can enable them to see the wonder of God in the people you share life with and creation. Through this, a wholesome relationship with God will develop and preparation for the celebration of Confirmation and Eucharist will be a natural progression in the life of your children. This nurturing and sharing does not end with the celebration of these three sacraments. Our relationship with Jesus is life long and needs to be nourished by guidance, prayer, example and experience.

THE RITE OF BAPTISM

The ceremony is one rich in *word, gesture and symbol*.

It is in the *words* –Scripture, Prayer, Renouncing Sin and Professing our Faith – that we express publicly our belief. We listen to the words of Scripture and as a community we respond to the prayers with the familiar words, “Lord hear our prayer”. We proclaim our faith saying “Yes - we do believe”.

The *gestures and symbols* speak to our heart and force us to go beyond thinking and to feel the celebration – the love and the presence of God.

*“the welcoming, the claiming for Christ with the sign of the cross,
the touching and anointing of the child, the pouring of water,
the clothing with the white cloth, the lighting of the candle,
the smell and feel and sound of the oil, water and flame”*

PARENTS & GODPARENTS

You have asked for baptism for your child. The main challenge and responsibility for bringing your child up in the Christian faith belongs to you. During the ceremony you are asked if you clearly understand this. As you do this, the community is also committed to supporting you. It is within the environment of the community that you will be able to nurture your child - worshipping together, growing through life experiences, being educated and socializing together.

Your godparents journey with you. A godparent is someone who truly believes and supports you in your vocation as Christian parents and will share the delightful and sad times of your family life and hopefully be able to join you on the occasion of your child’s confirmation and first communion.

Although it is traditional to have two godparents, it is only necessary to have one. So whether you choose one or more, take time and care in your choice.

Your chosen godparents stand with you in professing belief in God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. To do this they themselves need to be baptised Christians. *It is necessary, no matter how many or whether they are male or female, that one godparent is catholic and any other godparents be baptised Christians.*



DURING THE CEREMONY

The priest who is celebrating the baptism with you will guide you through the ceremony but you are the ones presenting the child and you are the ones making the commitment to bring your child to know and love God within the Church. This responsibility invites you to take an active role in the ceremony and to respond with confidence and clarity.



After Father signs your child with the Sign of the Cross, you will be invited to sign your child. Do so openly and invite the Godparents to follow.

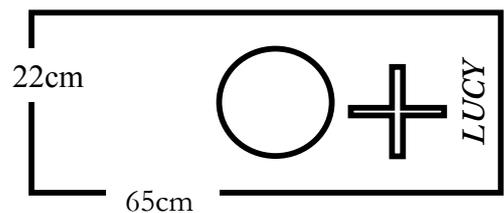
Do not be afraid of the water. It is the symbol of new life. It is cleansing, refreshing, life giving and joyful. As you feel the water, may it remind you of both the strength and the gentleness of God's life giving love. It is suggested that you allow the symbol of water to speak loudly by

immersing your child in the waters of baptism. This means the child is gently bathed in the water. The font at St Williams has been built to facilitate this action. After your child has been anointed with the oil of chrism - the oil of thanksgiving and gladness - the priest says

“You have become a new creation, and have clothed yourself in Christ. See in this white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity. With your family and friends to help you by word and example, bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven.”

If your child has been immersed in the water it is now that you put on the baptismal gown. *“The outward sign of Christian dignity”*. Alternatively, you are asked to have a white garment ready to place on your child. There are a couple of options. Very suitable for a small baby is a white bib as illustrated below. A bib is simple and inexpensive to make and offers an opportunity for the godparent, or family member to be involved in the preparation, by making it for your child. You can be assured it will be a treasured item of your child's as he or she grows and hears the story of their baptism.

The white bib may be decorated or left plain.



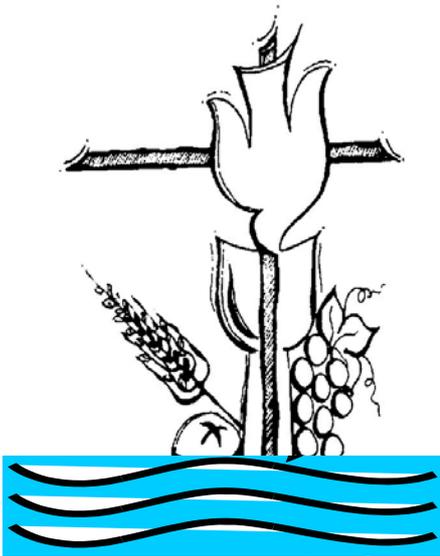
“Receive the light of Christ”

Words spoken as you are given

the lit baptismal candle which has been lit from the Easter Candle. This candle is to become a living memory to be lit and used. Allow your child to own the specialness of this candle and always may it be a living reminder of the enlightenment of your child by Christ. Many families light the candle at prayer time (just for a few seconds), on special family occasions, the anniversary of the child's baptism.

(Good quality baptismal candles are available in the parish Office. They have a hand painted motif on them and are priced at \$10.00)

*May your celebration be joy-filled and memorable!
May our God of Love be with you always.*



CATHOLIC PARISHES OF GROVEY-SAMFORD & MITCHELTON

- St William's Church, Grovely
- Sacred Heart Church, Samford
- Our Lady of Dolours Church,
Mitchelton

Baptisms are celebrated:

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th
Sundays
**St Williams,
Grovely**
at 11.00am.

3rd Sundays
**Sacred Heart,
Samford**
at 9.30am

4th Sundays
**Our Lady of Dolours,
Mitchelton**
at 9.30am

For enquiries about a baptism please contact

Tracie Gallagher, Pastoral Associate,
Parish Office, 67 Dawson Parade, Keperra.
Phone: 07 3355 1665 (Wed & Thurs)

It is the policy of the parish that parents wishing to have their child baptised in the churches of St William, Sacred Heart or Our Lady of Dolours, participate in a preparation evening prior to the baptism. This evening offers the opportunity to reflect on the Sacrament of Baptism as the first of the Sacraments of Initiation and the responsibility of the parents as the First Educators of Faith of their child. Registration Forms and other administrative details are also attended to on this evening.

Baptism Preparation Nights

- **WHEN:** Once per month February - December
- **TIME:** 7.30pm – 8:30pm
- **WHERE:** St Williams Church, 67 Dawson Parade, Keperra.
- **WHO ATTENDS:** Parents (Godparents & Children most welcome)
- **FOR BOOKINGS & ENQUIRIES:** Ph: 3355 1665 (Wed & Thurs)