



HOLY CROSS CHURCH
Greenford

HOLY BAPTISM AT HOLY CROSS

WELCOME TO HOLY CROSS CHURCH

We are delighted that you are considering Baptism for your child, and we hope you will find the information here helpful.

Normally, you may bring your child for Baptism at Holy Cross only if you live within the official parish boundary, or are on the electoral roll. If you live outside the parish, or are unsure whether you do, please speak to Joan Bird, our baptism Administrator or the Rector, Prebendary Neil Richardson.

WHAT IS A BAPTISM?

Perhaps you are used to the old name of “Christening”?

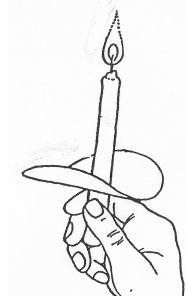
A Baptism is the service by which a person becomes a Christian.

It is an ancient ceremony in the church, but it is more than just an old ritual. Baptism is for people who have chosen to become Christians – to live as followers of Jesus Christ and to be active members of the Church. If you are bringing a small baby for baptism, you will have made this choice for her or him. It is your choice too, because the baby will depend on your example of a Christian life and a living faith. Baptism is the start of a new life as a Christian – not so much something that is “done” to your child as something that is “begun” for your child’s life.

WHEN CAN BAPTISM TAKE PLACE?

Baptism takes place either during our main Sunday worship, the Parish Mass, at 9.30 a.m. in the New Church, or at a separate service at noon on some Sundays in the Old Church. We normally prefer baptisms to take place at the 9.30 service, where the whole family of the church congregation is present to welcome the person who is being baptised.

Certain Sundays are set aside for Baptism. In 2005 they are:



16th January (9.30)	<i>During August, we will</i>
30th January (noon)	<i>try to be flexible with</i>
27th March (9.30)	<i>requests</i>
17th April (noon)	
1st May (9.30)	25th September (9.30)
22nd May (noon)	23rd October (9.30)
19th June (9.30)	20th November (9.30)
24th July (9.30)	

We generally have no more than 3 children for Baptism on any one Sunday.

WHAT HAPPENS BEFORE THE BAPTISM?

Baptism is a serious commitment for the whole family and especially for you as parents. Take time to think hard about the future and pray about what it will mean to bring up your child as a Christian. Please remember that the clergy and the people at Holy Cross are here to help and support you in this.

Before the baptism you are asked to come to a preparation meeting at which the meaning of Baptism and the Christian life will be discussed in an informal setting. The meeting takes place a few days before each Baptism Sunday. You will be able to ask questions and meet members of the congregation who will act a Baptism partners for each family. Meetings are normally at the Rectory at 8pm.

It is better if small children do not attend this meeting. Please try and find a baby-sitter if you can.

In 2005 the meeting dates are:

Preparation

12th January
25th January
15th March
12th April
26th April
10th May
14th June
12th July

Baptism date

16th January
30th January
27th March
17th April
1st May
22nd May
19th June
24th July

August dates to be arranged in due course

13th September
12th October
8th November

25th September
23rd October
20th November



GODPARENTS

After your own decision about choosing Baptism for your child, the next most important decision is choosing Godparents. They are people who will join you in making the promises on behalf of your child in the Baptism Service. Together you will declare your faith in God and your willingness to help the child to grow up as a faithful member of the Church. Godparents must be baptised themselves and should be firm in their own Christian commitment. Normally there are three Godparents but you can choose more, or a minimum of two (one of either sex). A parent can stand as a Godparent provided there are two others too.

PLANNING THE BAPTISM OF YOUR CHILD

Now you have decided upon Baptism, or even if you would just like to know more about it, make arrangements to come to a preparation meeting.

Please fill in the application form (at the end of this web page) and return it at the Parish Mass on any Sunday to Joan Bird (telephone 020 8578 5424) or via email to neil@holycross.ndo.co.uk

THE PARISH MASS

This is the main act of worship of Holy Cross Church and you are always most welcome to come. If you are unfamiliar with the service, don't feel nervous about coming because we have many newcomers all the time, and regular members of the congregation will be happy to make you feel at home.

Of course, we are well used to the needs of babies and small children, so don't worry if they cry or want to toddle around. There is plenty of space for prams and children's activities are provided during part of the service. We have a Crèche for small children and there is educational activity for children aged 4-12 during the service.

The Mass has two parts:

The Ministry of the Word, where we worship God through hymns and prayers. We listen to the teaching of the Bible, hear a sermon and pray for others.

The Ministry of the Sacrament – the Communion – is the part where bread and wine are blessed to become the Body and Blood of Christ as we thank God for all his love and goodness towards us. The sacrament is shared by those who are confirmed and the children and those not confirmed receive a blessing and the "bread of friendship".

When there is a Baptism, it takes place between the two parts of the Mass, after the sermon.

IF YOU NEED HELP

If we can help in any way, by information, advice or the chance to talk things over, please get in touch with the rector:

Prebendary Neil Richardson 020 8578 1543

email neil@holycross.ndo.co.uk



Ray s of light shine through into the New Church

photograph by Annat Sungtong