



BAPTISM

*General information for parents
wishing to have their child baptised in Saint Peter's, Ballymitty.*

1. General Principles

One parent needs to be a Catholic and practicing their faith by attending Mass and receiving the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation. The non-Catholic parent should be willing to have the child baptised in the Catholic faith. The family needs to be registered in the parish. A commitment on the part of the parents to teach their child about the Catholic faith, and support their child's faith journey.

Being a practising Catholic means that you attend Mass every Sunday and on Holy Days of Obligation, receive the Sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation, and you are financially supporting the parish.

1. The Godparent or Godparents must be at least 16 years old.
2. At least one Godparent must be a fully initiated Catholic (baptised, confirmed, and received Eucharist).
3. At least one Godparent must be leading a sacramental life in harmony with the Church. This means they are attending Mass regularly and receiving the sacraments.
4. If married, the Godparents must be married according to the norms of the Catholic Church.
5. The Catholic Godparent must be willing to accept the responsibility of assisting the parents in developing the faith life of the child.
6. The Godparent may not be the Father or Mother of the one to be baptised.

2. Godparents

It is an honour to ask someone to make a lifelong commitment to help your child grow in the Catho-

lic faith. One Godparent is required to be a model and friend for the child being baptised. This adult is a support to the family in bringing up the child in the Catholic faith.

Can a non-Catholic serve as a godparent? A baptised, non-Catholic may serve as an "official witness" to the baptism, only if there is a proper Catholic sponsor who fully meets all requirements of a godparent. The non-Catholic who is selected as a witness should be an active and participating member of his/her church community. During the baptism, a non-Catholic witness may perform all the parts of the ceremony that a godparent does. His or her name will be entered into the Sacrament Record Book as an "official witness", together with the name of the godparent.

What is a Christian Witness/Proxy? The Witness or Proxy is someone you choose that practices a Christian religion and they are standing in for the Sponsor who is not able to attend the ceremony.

Can someone serve as godparent by proxy (stand-in) if the godparent is unable to participate in the baptism ceremony? If a godparent cannot attend the baptism ceremony, a proxy can stand in the place of the missing godparent. The name of that person will be entered as "proxy" in the Sacramental Record Book. Along with the name of the missing godparent.

Contact me if you have any questions.

Fr. Martin Pender