

Parent's Responsibilities

By bringing your child forward for baptism you are accepting a number of responsibilities. You verbally acknowledge these throughout the ritual.

You are called to be:

Models of faith

Models of good living

- ♥ Treat one another with love and respect
- ♥ Be models of forgiveness and reconciliation
- ♥ Pray together
- ♥ Share stories - especially about Jesus' life
- ♥ Share meals together
- ♥ Show your child the difference between right and wrong
- ♥ Be models of thankfulness
- ♥ Be a part of the worshipping Church

Education in the faith should begin in the child's earliest years. This already happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their child to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents.

[Catechism of the Catholic Church]

Godparents

The role of godparents is to help their godchild lead a Christian life

Qualifications:

- ♥ Normally be at least sixteen years old
- ♥ Be a member in good standing of the Catholic Church
- ♥ Lead a life in harmony with the faith and the role to be undertaken
- ♥ Have received all three of the sacraments of initiation - baptism, confirmation and eucharist
- ♥ Not be the child's parents.

Usually there are two godparents, a godfather and a godmother. There may be just one. There may be more than two. They may be the same sex.

A baptised non-Catholic may serve as a Christian witness, but there **must** also be a Catholic godparent.

Role:

- ♥ To be a model of lived faith - an example to your child of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.
- ♥ To represent the family of the Church to the child
- ♥ To be prepared to pray for your child.
- ♥ To be a friend and support to you in helping your child grow as a child of God.