

Parish Information & Guide for Parents

Baptism at Our Lady of Sorrows & St Bridget Sweden, Isleworth - Roman Catholic Church



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A warm welcome to you as you prepare for your child's baptism. Bringing your child to the Church is a beautiful step of faith. This guide explains everything you need to know—practical, pastoral, and spiritual.

1. The Meaning of Baptism

Baptism is the first sacrament of Christian life. Through Baptism:

- Your child becomes a member of the Catholic Church.
- Original sin is washed away.
- The Holy Spirit comes to dwell within your child.
- Your child shares in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.
- A lifelong journey of faith begins.

2. The Role and Responsibilities of Catholic Parents

Before the Baptism

As parents, you are the primary teachers of faith for your child. Before the baptism, the Church asks you to:

- Desire and request baptism freely.
- Attend the parish's baptism preparation meeting.
- Choose suitable Catholic godparents.
- Provide a white garment for your child (symbol of new life in Christ).
- Begin praying for your child and preparing your home as a place of faith.

During the Baptism Ceremony

You will be asked to publicly:

- State the name you give your child.
- Renew your own baptismal promises.



- Promise to raise your child in the practice of the Catholic faith.
- Accept the responsibility of guiding your child towards the sacraments.

After the Baptism

Your role continues in daily life. Parents are encouraged to:

- Bring your child to Sunday Mass regularly.
- Teach simple prayers as they grow.
- Let your home be a place where Jesus is spoken of naturally.
- Celebrate your child's baptism anniversary each year.

- Support them towards First Confession, First Holy Communion, and Confirmation.
- Keep the baptism candle and certificate safely.

Your faithful example will shape your child's relationship with God more than anything else.

3. Choosing Godparents

Godparents are not honorary titles—they are spiritual guardians chosen to help you raise your child in the Catholic faith.



Important Note

Good friends or family friends cannot automatically be godparents.

They must meet the Church's specific requirements. Being close to the family is not enough—they must be capable of supporting your child in the Catholic faith.

Requirements for Godparents

- At least one godparent must be a practising Catholic, aged 16 or older.
- A Catholic godparent must be baptised, confirmed, and must have received Holy Communion.
- A baptised non-Catholic may serve as a Christian Witness, but not as the only godparent.
- Godparents should be living their faith in a way that reflects Christian values.



Responsibilities of Godparents

Godparents promise to:

- Support parents in raising the child in the Catholic faith.
- Pray regularly for the child.
- Be present at important moments in the child's spiritual life.
- Encourage the child to grow in faith, charity, and Christian values.
- Be a living example of Christian life.
- Guide the child toward the sacraments as they grow.

Choosing godparents is an important and prayerful decision—select those who can truly accompany your child's journey of faith.



4. Practical Parish Information

Baptism Dates

- Saturdays at 11:30am
- Sundays at 1:15pm

Other weekdays may be arranged only by special appointment with the parish priest.



Candles & White Garments

- The parish provides baptism candles (families may bring their own).
- The white garment must be provided by the family.



Donations

Baptism is a sacrament and is free.

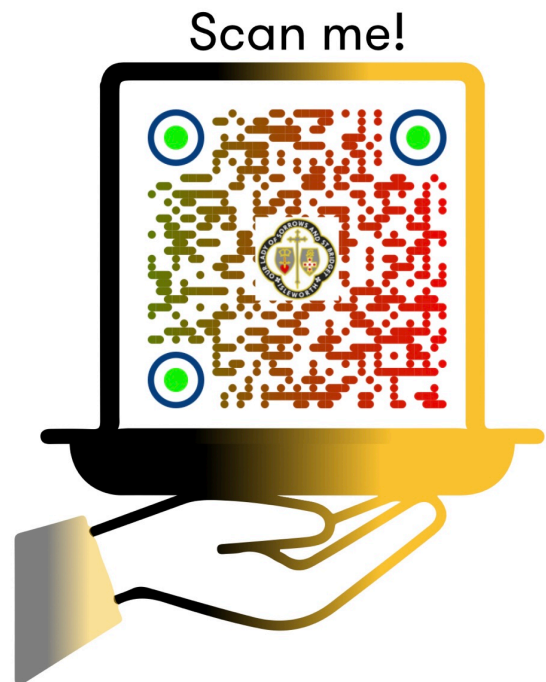
However, we suggest a £50 donation to support the church's maintenance and running costs. This is voluntary and deeply appreciated.

5. What Parents Need to Do – Step by Step

Step 1: Contact the Parish

Please begin by completing the Baptism Enquiry Form online or by scanning the QR code provided. When filling out the form, you will be asked to provide:

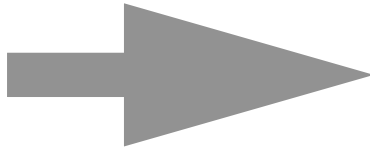
- Your child's full name as it appears on the birth certificate
- Parents' full names and contact details
- The full names of the godparents as shown on their official ID



Once the form is submitted, the parish will contact you to guide you through the next steps. You will then be asked to provide the following documents:

- A copy of one parent's Catholic baptism certificate
- A copy of one godparent's Catholic baptism certificate

- If you are not a parishioner of St Bridget's, a letter of permission from your local parish priest.



All required documents should be sent to isleworth@rcdow.org.uk

Step 2: Attend the Baptism Preparation Meeting

This short session covers:

- The meaning of the sacrament
 - The ceremony
 - Parental responsibilities
 - Practical details
- Godparents are welcome to attend.

6. The Baptism Ceremony – What to Expect

1. Reception of the Child – Name is declared; parents express their intention to raise the child in the faith.
2. Liturgy of the Word – Scriptures, homily, and prayers.

3. Anointing with the Oil of Catechumens – Prayer for protection and strength.
4. Blessing of Water & Baptism – Water poured three times as the child is baptised in the name of the Trinity.
5. Anointing with Chrism – Sign of belonging to Christ.
6. White Garment – Placed by the family.
7. Lighting of the Candle – Candle lit from the Paschal Candle (parish provides).
8. Final Blessings – Special blessings for parents and family.

The celebration usually lasts 20–30 minutes.

7. After the Baptism – Continuing the Journey

Your child is now a full member of the Catholic Church. You are encouraged to:

- Bring your child to Mass regularly.
- Introduce daily prayers at home.
- Keep the baptism candle and garment as reminders of the day.

- Stay connected with the parish community.

The Church will support you as your child prepares for future sacraments.

8. Frequently Asked Question

Are parents required to attend Mass before the baptism?

You are warmly encouraged to do so. Baptism is a new beginning for the whole family.

Can unmarried parents baptise their child?

Yes. Your marital status does not prevent baptism.

Can we have more than two godparents?

Yes, you may have more than two people supporting you, and they may be present at the Baptism ceremony. However, only two godparents can be officially recorded in the baptism register (one male and one female), as the register has limited space. The others may accompany you but will not be officially listed.