

The role of the Godparent

WHO CAN BE A GODPARENT?

Only one Godparent is required in the Catholic Church

To be a Godparent a person needs to be:

- 16 years or older
- A confirmed Catholic who has received first Eucharist
- Not a parent of the child

Traditionally a second person has often been asked to be a Godparent.

A baptised member of another Christian Church may be a witness rather than official Godparent. Culturally, this second person is referred to as a Godparent. By cultural tradition other witnesses to the Baptism are often also referred to as Godparents.



The day of Baptism is a great day of celebration, marking the start of a child's journey with God in the Body of Christ and the Church. The relationship of faith is nurtured in the home.

THE ROLE OF GODPARENTS IN INFANT BAPTISM

It is a great honour and responsibility to be asked to be a godparent. Godparents have two key roles:

1. **Assisting and supporting parents** in the Christian upbringing of the child. During the liturgy of baptism, they will be asked;
Are you willing to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents? Therefore, they need to live a faith-filled life.
2. **Represent the Church family** into which the child is being baptised. During the liturgy of baptism, they will also,
 - renew their baptismal vows
 - renounce Satan
 - profess the Creed.

Godparents may also be asked to participate in other ways during the liturgy such as holding the candle.

HOW TO BE A GODPARENT

To be a good Godparent does not require a person to be a saint. A good Godparent gives example by living the Catholic faith. They provide guidance, support, and inspiration to their godchild as they journey with God

