



THE HOLY FAMILY CLUSTER

SACRED HEART BORDON — IMMACULATE CONCEPTION LIPHOOK — ST JOSEPH'S GRAYSHOTT

APPLICATION FOR HOLY BAPTISM

Contact:

Father John Chandler

jchandler@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



Baptism is the first step towards becoming a Catholic.

There are actually three sacraments of initiation which we must receive in order for us to be fully incorporated into the Catholic Church.

- Baptism
- Holy Communion
- Confirmation

Our Baptism is not complete until the day of our Confirmation.

Ordinarily, the Sacrament of Baptism is given to an infant, the Sacrament of Holy Communion is first received at the age of seven and then the Sacrament of Confirmation is typically received around the age of fifteen years old.

Adult converts to the Faith follow a different route and they receive all three Sacraments during the Easter Vigil Mass.

So, by completing this application form you are actually beginning a sacramental journey which begins with baptism but doesn't end until the day your child is Confirmed by the Bishop. And of course, it doesn't end there! Being a Catholic is a way of life, a life-long relationship with the Lord.

These Sacraments of Initiation enable us to go on to receive the other Sacraments, such as Holy Matrimony...in order for a Catholic to be married in the church they must first of all have been Confirmed. So, this really is an important first step in the rest of the sacramental life of your child which will influence many aspects of their life in the years to come.

It is a great joy and a privilege for us here in the Holy Family Cluster to be beginning this journey with you and I can assure you of our prayers and support in the years to come!

With every good wish and blessing,

Fr. John Chandler

Parish Priest

Requirements

What is required before I make an application for Holy Baptism for my child?

During the Baptismal Ceremony the Parents and Godparents will make vows to God - not to the Priest, not to the Bishop, not even to the Pope!

The parents and Godparents will come before the altar of God and promise Him that they will bring up their child in the practice of the Catholic Faith.

It is for this reason that the parents and Godparents should already be practicing their faith before they apply for Baptism.

What does it mean to be 'practicing' my faith?

The minimum requirement is that the parents and Godparents should be attending Holy Mass each Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation. They must also fulfil their Easter Duties by Confessing their sins during the Easter Season.

What if only one parent is Catholic?

Whilst it would be great for both parents to attend Mass together, there is no obligation on the non-Catholic parent at all.

Baptism Preparation course:

The final requirement is that the Baptism Preparation course is followed by at least one parent and all Godparents. If Godparents live outside of this Parish (and are therefore not able to attend the course here) they will be required to complete the preparation course offered in their own parish and their Parish Priest will be requested to send Fr John a testimonial vouching for the suitability of each Godparent.

APPLICATION FORM

Name of the child: _____

Date of birth: ____/____/____ Which Mass do you usually attend? _____

Mother's Name: _____

Place of Mother's Baptism: _____

Father's name: _____

Place of Father's Baptism: _____

Contact address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

I have read the requirements and I agree to abide by them:

Signed: _____ Date: ____/____/____