

Bringing your child for baptism

Liverpool Parish Church (St Nick's) is a place for all at the heart of our community. We look forward to welcoming you to our Church.

What is baptism?

Christening - the old name - means joining a person to Jesus Christ. Today we often use the even older word 'baptism'. Baptism and Christening are both words for a service which often takes place when a baby is a few months old, although you can be baptized at any age! Baptism is one of the sacraments of the Church: it is a visible sign of God's love.



Baptism (Christening) is:

- an opportunity for family and friends to give thanks to God for the birth of a child.
- a time for commitment to the Christian faith.
- the moment when a child joins the Church.
- when a child receives the grace of God and forms a special relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

We hope that in bringing your child for baptism you will sense the presence of God in the life of your family, and that the service in Church will allow you to give thanks for all that he has given us.

**If you have any questions or wish to book a baptism,
please contact the Parish Office on 0151 236 5287
or e-mail enquiries@livpc.co.uk**

Who can be baptized at Liverpool Parish Church?

St Nick's welcomes for baptism

- anyone who lives in the parish. The parish covers the city centre, from Leeds St in the north to Hanover St in the south; it includes Lime St Station in the east, and reaches to the River Mersey in the west
- those with strong connections to the City Centre or the maritime community
- those who have an historic or family connection to St Nick's.

If you don't fall into these groups then we may suggest that you contact your own parish church. If you are not sure which your parish church is then we are happy to help, or you can find it yourself using www.achurchnearyou.com. There is no fee for baptism.

What about godparents?

Godparents are important during the service because they make the promises of commitment to the Christian faith which the children are too young to make for themselves. For this reason it is important that all godparents have themselves been baptized (christened). It is traditional to have three godparents, but occasionally four.

The real work of godparents begins after the service. Godparents promise during the service:

1. to bring their godchildren to church.
2. to pray for their godchildren

These are challenging but life-giving promises to make. Making a commitment to the Christian faith can feel like walking into the unknown, but it is also exciting and nourishing.

Of course primarily godparents are *adult* friends to their godchildren as they grow up. It is a relationship which may surprise you, and which can enrich the lives of both godparents and godchildren.

How do we prepare?

All children who are to be baptized at St Nick's are invited to come to Church, along with parents, godparents, and other family members. Older children (3+) might enjoy our Sunday School which meets at 10am

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on the first Sunday of every month. Sometimes we shall also invite you to a special session to prepare for the service, but you can always talk to us if you have any questions. There are plenty of resources to help you: have a look at this website www.churchofenglandchristenings.org.

What happens during the service?

Baptisms normally take place at 12noon on the second Sunday of the month. We try not to have more than two or three families at each service.

During the baptism the parents and godparents make promises of commitment to the Christian faith. The priest makes the sign of the cross with holy oil on the child's head and baptizes the child with water at the font saying "I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." At the end of the service the child is given a candle to symbolize the light of Christ. At the service children become members of the Church of God, but they also receive the grace of God in baptism.



What next?

In baptism we become Christians. It is important to think about how your child can continue to grow in the Christian faith and to worship in a Christian community. In church every Sunday Christians of all shapes and sizes and from all backgrounds grow together in friendship, in love of one another, and in worship of God.

The main service at St Nick's is on Sundays at 10am. On the first Sunday of the month there is a Sunday School where children flourish as they learn about God through play and worship. Younger children are welcome to stay with their parents during the service: there is a small children's corner at the back in case they get restless, but you can still hear and remain part of the service. We also encourage children to get involved, so you might see them serving at the altar, doing readings, or helping with refreshments afterwards.



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Baptism is...



The beginning of a journey with God

An important event in the community



An opportunity to remember our own baptism

When we are baptized we...

Receive the sign of the cross, the badge of faith in the Christian journey



Receive the water of baptism. Water washes away the old and brings new life

Receive the light of Christ, conquering the darkness of evil. Everyone who is baptized walks in that light for the rest of their lives



God of grace and life,
in your love you have given us
a place among your people;
keep us faithful to our baptism,
and prepare us for that glorious day
when the whole creation will be made perfect
in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.