

PARISH OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Caterham, Whyteleafe, Chaldon, Godstone

APPLICATION FOR THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

FOR THOSE WHO LIVE OUTSIDE OUR PARISH BOUNDARIES:

To the north, our parish ends with the county boundary a little north of the main roundabout in Whyteleafe. From there the boundary goes south along the railway line to the M25. If you live in Whyteleafe and pay your Council Tax to Tandridge rather than Croydon, you are in our parish.

Southwards, the parish includes Godstone and South Godstone as far as the railway.

Westwards, the parish includes Bletchingley east of the Anglican parish church, and all of Chaldon.

Therefore:

- If you live in Kenley, from the Aerodrome northwards, or north Whyteleafe (that part that pays its Council Tax to Croydon) or Purley, your parish is St John the Baptist, 48 Dale Road, Purley, CR8 2EF Tel. 020 8660 3815.
- If you live in Old Coulsdon, west of Hayes Lane, your parish is St Mary's, 372 Old Coulsdon Road, CR5 1EF, Tel. 01737 552420. The parish priest, Fr Gerard Bradley has kindly given blanket permission for baptisms at the Sacred Heart so it is not necessary to see him.
- If you live in Coulsdon proper or in Netherne Village, your parish is St Aidan's, 1 Portnalls Road, Coulsdon, CR5 3DD Telephone 020 8660 2452
- If you live in Sanderstead, your parish is The Holy Family, 115 Limpsfield Road, South Croydon, CR2 9LF, Tel. 020 8657 1728
- If you live in Warlingham, Woldingham (but not including Woldingham School which is in our parish), Limpsfield, Oxted, Tandridge or the surrounding villages, you are in Oxted and Warlingham parish: Parish Office; St Ambrose, 2 Warren Park, Warlingham, CR6 9LD, Tel. 01883 627762
- If you live in Merstham, Redhill, Reigate, Nutfield, Bletchingley west of the Anglican parish church or surrounding villages, you live in the parish of the Nativity of the Lord, Parish Office; 122 Ladbroke Road, Redhill, RH1 1LF, Tel. 01737 761017.

Please ask one of the parish clergy of the parish where you live to sign this release: *do not sign it yourself.*

I, parish priest / assistant priest hereby give permission for the child named overleaf to be baptised in the Parish of the Sacred Heart, Caterham.

Signed..... Date.....

Parish.....

PLEASE DETACH THIS PAGE, AND BRING IT TO YOUR MEETING WITH FR SEÁN.

PLEASE RETAIN THE INFORMATION SHEET.

CONGRATULATIONS on the birth of your child! Our parish rejoices with you, and we are delighted that you are wanting your child to begin the Christian way of life. Since this is a major commitment on your part, our parish would like to help you to prepare. Baptism is all about faith; though your own faith may not be very strong at times, like a muscle it is made stronger with use. By helping your child through its first steps in our religion, your own faith will be made stronger and you will find it a real help in the years ahead, if you are prepared to do it generously and wholeheartedly.

SOME PRACTICALITIES: PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY!

- Please contact Father Seán (01883 343241; priest@sacred-heart.co.uk) as soon as possible to make an appointment. Please fill in, detach and, *when you come to meet with Fr Seán* bring with you the completed form, keeping this part for your own information. Please do not submit this form by any other means such as putting it through the presbytery door or sending it by post, or email, or handing it to another person.
- If you live anywhere other than Caterham, Whyteleafe (Tandridge Council area, not Croydon), Chaldon or Godstone, even if you attend Mass in our parish, you will need to obtain the permission of the Parish Priest of the parish where you actually live (permission is usually readily given) to have your baptism in our parish. There is a box for the parish priest to sign on this form.
- Baptisms normally take place on Saturday or Sunday at 12.30, though other times may be possible. For several reasons this Sacrament is not usually celebrated in the context of Sunday Mass.
- At least one godparent must be a practising (*at Mass every Sunday*) Catholic who has been confirmed and is over 16 years of age. The others should be well-disposed to the faith, and at least baptised, though non-baptised people may assist as special witnesses. If a godparent cannot physically attend the baptism, they can be represented by somebody else (a 'proxy').
- The child must have at least one Christian name, meaning not just a first name, but a name with Christian significance), normally the name of a saint. You can get ideas for this on the web; one (very thorough) such site is <https://www.catholic.org/saints/stindex.php> and another is http://www.momjunction.com/articles/saint-names-for-girls-and-boys_00403028/#gref. For your first child, you will need to attend two preparation sessions. Details of this are available on the next page. It is not usually necessary to attend the sessions for subsequent children.

BRINGING YOUR CHILD UP IN THE FAITH

- Baptism alone is not enough to ensure your child's entrance into a Catholic school; regular attendance at Mass is also required. Sometimes it takes a little while for a child to become accustomed to going to church and may be a little noisy—don't worry; most people in the church have or have had families too, and quite understand. If your child gets upset, don't be shy about taking him or her out until he or she calms down. Noisy babies and toddlers can be taken into the porch of the church where you and they can still see and hear what is going on, but will not disturb the rest of the congregation. At the 9.00 and 10.45 Masses during term times, your child may go with the others to the special *Liturgy of the Word for Children*, where the readings of the Mass are explored in a way that is suitable for their abilities and understanding. When children begin to prepare for First Communion, they cease going to *Children's Liturgy*.
- Praying with your child is very important, as children learn by imitating their parents. Children should be able to make the *Sign of the Cross*, and should know the *Our Father*, the *Hail Mary* and the *Glory be to the Father* by heart before they go to school.

THE BAPTISM CEREMONY

- Please make sure that baby has had a feed and a change shortly before you arrive; this makes baby much happier, and therefore everything much easier for everybody. A sleep is helpful, too.
- Please bring with you a white garment (a blanket or shawl is fine) and arrive ten or so minutes before the service is due to begin. The ceremony is relatively brief; it usually lasts between 20 and 25 minutes.
- It is usual that the mother hold the child throughout the service, though especially in the case of larger children, the father or a godparent can lend a hand.

- If you have friends or relatives who would like to do a reading, or lead some prayers, please speak to Fr Seán in good time.
- There is no objection to photography, video cameras &c, providing they do not interfere with the ceremony.
- There is no fee as such for Baptism, but it is customary to make an offering to the priest or deacon who baptises your child, and who relies on such offerings for his income.

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

- Please note that parents and godparents are required to make this profession of faith at the baptism. It is essential that at least one parent and the main godparent is able to do so in good conscience. This is the faith in which we are baptising the child, and in which you are promising to bring him or her up.

Priest: Do you reject Satan ?
 Reply: I do.

Priest: And all his works?
 Reply: I do.

Priest: And all his empty promises?
 Reply: I do.

Priest: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?
 Reply: I do.

Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?
 Reply: I do.

Priest: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?
 Reply: I do.

PREPARATION SESSIONS

- If this is your first child, please make sure that you attend each of two preparation sessions before the baptism of your first child in this parish. The sessions are led by **Ciro Candia**: please make contact with him as soon as possible. The first, more informal, session will take place in the Candias' home on your own and at a mutually convenient time; it's absolutely fine to bring your child too, so no need to arrange childcare. You will be given the address when you contact **Ciro**. The second session will take place at the church, beginning in the Old Hall behind the church; the date for this can be arranged between you, **Ciro** and some other couples.

Ciro Candia: cirocandia70@gmail.com or phone 07904 595900

TIMES OF SUNDAY MASSES AT THE SACRED HEART

- 9.00am
- 10.45am
- 5.15pm.

PREPARATION FOR BAPTISM

Name of child.....Date of birth.....

Mother's name.....Maiden name.....

Mother's religion.....

Father's name.....Religion.....

Address.....

Phone..... Email.....

Godparents (*at least one, though you may have more*)

Names	Religion
1.	Practising Catholic.
2.
3.
4.

Will any of these be represented by a proxy? If so, please make it clear above, and state who will represent them.

Do you have a date in mind already? If we can accomodate you, we will do our best.....

Which preparation course do you plan to attend? If you have attended the course for a previous child, there is no need to do so again.

A..... B.....

PLEASE NOTE:

When the baptism takes place, we will be recording this information in the parish baptismal register. Your submission of this form is thereby granting us permission to do so. If you have not filled in a parishioner's form, you are requested to do so as soon as convenient. Naturally, any information you give will not be shared with any party outside the Church without your permission.