CATHOLIC PARISH
OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
Balmoral, Auckland

Celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism for Infants

Thank you for your enquiry about having your child baptised.

Baptism is the first of three sacraments of initiation or 'belonging'. Its an important decision, among many, that you will make on behalf of your child. Already you are making choices for your children… how they are to be cared for, the sort of food they eat, the clothes that they wear, the schools they will attend, the company they will keep…

Importantly you are now considering how best to care for them spiritually by introducing them formally into the life of Christ and his Church. As a church community we share in the well-being of your children, especially in a spiritual sense.

For a child to be accepted as a candidate for baptism there needs to be a 'well-founded hope' that he or she will be brought up in the practice of the Catholic faith.

This includes ….giving them a sense that they are loved deeply by God, introducing your child to personal prayer and, importantly, belonging to a 'community of faith' (Good Shepherd Parish) which meets on Sunday for Mass. This is part of what a 'well founded hope' means.

Please reflect on your reasons for having your child baptised. It is a significant step and we firmly hope that as your child grows, he/she will have a wonderful sense of God's presence and action in his/her life.

(For Baptism of children aged 8 and over please email the Parish office).

The Celebration of Baptism for Infants

This usually takes place on the first Saturday of the month at 11 am (excluding April 2026)

You will need to bring a candle for the baptism ceremony. You may like to have the candle engraved with the date and child's name. The Square Gift Shop in St Patrick's Square or 'Candles By Design' are some of the places where baptism candles can be arranged.

Once you have a set date and time for your child's baptism, it will be necessary to complete a Baptism Record form and send to the Parish Office so we can prepare a baptism certificate and register your child in the parish baptism register.

People often ask how much it costs to have a baptism. There is no charge but donations are gratefully received! If you wish to donate by direct credit, details are on the booking form and front cover of this leaflet.

Parents—One parent needs to be a Baptised Catholic. Please supply copy of your Baptism Certificate & a copy of one Catholic Godparent.

Godparents - At least one must be a Baptised and Confirmed Catholic. All godparents need to be Baptised Christians and over the age of 16.

If the Good Shepherd is not your usual place of worship, or geographically you live in another part of the city, we recommend you contact your local parish.
Baptism is an important way of making a connection with your local parish and priest, and the future support your local community offers. This is especially important if your children are approaching school age. If you already belong to another parish, then the baptism should take place there.

Sunday Masses
Saturday Vigil: 5pm
Sunday: 9.30am

Weekday Masses
Monday to Saturday 9.30am
(including Public Holidays):

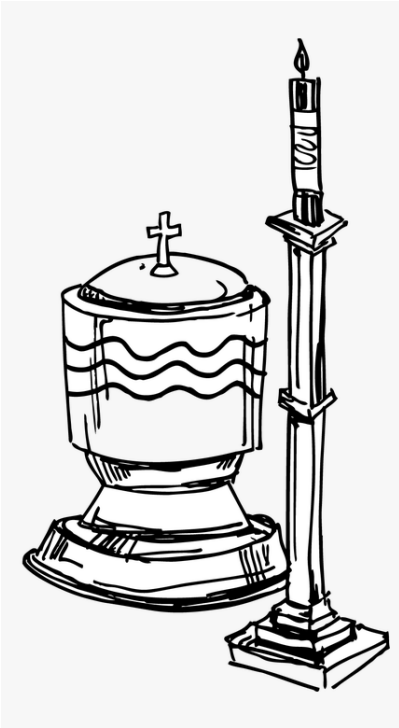
Wellness reminder—if you are sick please stay home

Good Shepherd Parish

Parish Priest: Fr Martin Wu
office@balmoralcatholic.org
Secretary: Kristelle Thomson
office@balmoralcatholic.org

Good Shepherd School

admin@goodshepherd.school.nz
Principal: Ben Fahey
principal@goodshepherd.school.nz



The first educators of faith are parents/whānau. https://www.faithjourney.co.nz/ is a wonderful depository of family-friendly material for the domestic Church. It comes from the Bishops' Conference *National Centre for Religious Studies.* New materials are continually being uploaded. Explore!

Enrolment at Good Shepherd School

Please phone the school office on 620 4962 for further information or download the forms from the school website www.goodshepherd.school.nz. School visits welcome.