

ST. LUKE'S PARISH CHURCH, MULLAGLASS
CHURCH OF IRELAND

BAPTISM FORM

To be completed and returned to the Rector or Churchwardens at least ONE clear week before the date of Baptism. Many thanks.

Name(s) to be given to Child: _____

Child's D.O.B.: _____/_____/_____

Father's Full Name: _____

Mother's Full Name: _____

Address: _____

County: _____ Postcode: _____

Father's Trade/Employment: _____

Mother's Trade/Employment: _____

Name(s) of Sponsors: _____

Parents may be sponsors for their children. It is desirable that Sponsors attend Church regularly. "Sponsors and godparents must be baptised Christians and persons of discreet age, and at least two shall be members of the Church of Ireland or of a Church in communion therewith." – Canons 26:4

Do you intend to send the child to a Church of Ireland Sunday School? YES / NO

Do you intend to bring the child to Church when old enough? YES / NO

Proposed date of Baptism: _____/_____/_____

Signature of Rector: _____

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CHURCH OF IRELAND

Holy Baptism within the Church of Ireland

Pastoral Introduction – *Book of Common Prayer 2004, p.357*

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. For all involved, particularly the candidates but also parents, godparents and sponsors, it is a joyful moment when we rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ, making serious promises and declaring the faith. The wider community of the local church and friends welcome the new Christian, promising support and prayer for the future. Hearing and doing these things provides an opportunity to remember our own baptism and reflect on the progress made on that journey, which is now to be shared with this new member of the Church.

The service paints many vivid pictures of what happens on the Christian way. There is the sign of the cross, the badge of faith in the Christian journey, which reminds us of Christ's death for us. Our 'drowning' in the water of baptism, where we believe we die to sin and are raised to new life, unites us to Christ's dying and rising, a picture that can be brought home vividly by the way the baptism is administered. Water is also a sign of new life, as we are born again by water and the Spirit. This reminds us of Jesus' baptism. And as a sign of that new life, there may be a lighted candle, a picture of the light of Christ conquering the darkness of evil. Everyone who is baptised walks in that light for the rest of their lives.

As you pray for the candidates, picture them with yourself and the whole Church throughout the ages, journeying into the fullness of God's love.