

## TIPS

- ◆ Make sure all mobile phones or other devices are switched off or placed on silent.
- ◆ We ask that you respect our Church and our faith and do not eat or chew anything during the service.
- ◆ During the period before the service begins, other members of the Congregation may be engaged in silent prayer. Please be considerate and keep noise to a minimum.
- ◆ Once the service begins, please try not to chat. It can be very distracting to others who wish to be part of the Baptism service.
- ◆ Children are very welcome in our Church, we just ask that if they will not settle, that you take them to the porch where you will find something for them to play with.
- ◆ Please do not take photographs during the service. If you arrive early enough you can take them before and are welcome to take them afterwards.
- ◆ Feel free to speak to the Priest after the Service. It is always appropriate to call him, "Father," even if you don't know his name. Just say thank you and say that you are visiting. If he talks to you, don't worry, just know that he is doing his job trying to make you feel welcome.
- ◆ If you are interested in becoming a Catholic, you are welcome to speak to the Parish Priest who will be able to help you.

## Catholic Church of Our Lady of Lourdes & St Gerard Majella Lostock Hall, Preston

### What to expect at the Baptism



A Guide for Parents and Visitors  
to a Baptism in  
a Catholic Church

1. The service usually contains these things:
  - A reading from a passage of the Bible which is normally read by a member of the family and the Gospel read by the Priest.
  - The Responsorial Psalm, read by a member of the family.
  - Bidding prayers of intercession, read by a member of the family.
  - A Homily (Sermon)
2. Plan to arrive at the Church at least 15 minutes before the appointed time. This gives you time to meet members of the family before the Service and to take your place in the church at least 5 minutes before the start. You will feel so much more comfortable if you can park (or better yet, walk) and get in the Church early. Walk in through the main doors, and if you see people picking up a hymnal or leaflet, do the same.
3. You may see genuflecting (bending on the right knee), or bowing if their knees are bad, in the direction of the altar (the table up front). If you are not Catholic, do not feel awkward about not doing this but please do respect the church in a way which you feel appropriate. Catholics believe God is literally present in the Eucharist, which is kept in the tabernacle placed behind the altar. Genuflecting is simply a sign of deep respect for God and the Eucharist.
4. Feel free to sit anywhere in the pews but consider sitting closer to the front with the family so that you can see what is going on. If you have young children you may want to sit towards the side of the church and have a pushchair with you. This also allows you to get to toilets with minimum disruption. (Toilets with baby changing facilities are at the back of the church near where you entered the building)
5. Once the Service starts, breathe, sit back, and enjoy. This is not a stressful process. All are welcome to kneel, stand, sit, or bow when the congregation does so, but do not feel pressure to do any of these. It is recommended, however, to stand when the congregation stands and sit when they are either sitting or kneeling.
6. The Baptism Service starts with the Priest welcoming the child to be **baptised and making the sign of the Cross on the child's forehead with his thumb**, he then asks the Parents and Godparents to do the same.
7. Following the readings and Homily mentioned earlier, the Service continues with the Prayer of Exorcism. The Priest then anoints the child with the Oil of Catechumens on the breast to strengthen them with the power of Christ.

8. This is then followed by Prayers of Invocation to the Holy Spirit and the Blessing of the Water to be used in the baptism.
9. Immediately before the Baptism everyone is invited to join in with the Renunciation of Sin and the Profession of Faith.
10. At the Baptism itself the Parents and Godparents are asked to stand round the back of the font. Please make sure that you hold the child's head on your left arm and that you should be facing the people.
11. After the Baptism the parents and Godparents return to their places and the child is anointed once more, this time with the Oil of Sacred Chrism (**the next time this will be used is at the child's Confirmation**). This anointing is on the forehead again.
12. The Priest will then hold up the White Christening Gown (Please make sure you bring the one for your child) and say a short prayer after which he will hand it to the Godmother to wrap around the child.
13. The final part of the Baptism is the Lighting of a Baptismal Candle. This is lit from the Easter Candle. The Priest explains its meaning with a short prayer and then hands it to the Parents who then pass it to the Godparents who will return it finally to the Parents
14. **The service concludes with the Lord's Prayer and special Blessings for the Parents and to all the people who are present** (When a Priest blesses you, Catholics respond by making the sign of the Cross and replying Amen.)
15. Appreciate the beauty of the church. After the Service, feel free to take some photographs or take a few minutes to look at any of the beautiful statues in the Church. These statues and icons are "not" idols. No Catholic prays directly to these wooden statues or images, but the statues help a Catholic focus their prayers to God or help them ask a saint for intercessory prayer to God.
16. Feel free to take a bulletin to read later, and feel welcome to greet the priest as you leave. Most priests are very friendly and glad to shake hands and talk.