

Our Lady of the Southern Cross Parish

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Baptism at Our Lady of the Southern Cross Parish

Our Lady of the Southern Cross is one of the newer parishes in our archdiocese. Over the last 7 years, under the guidance of Fr Mauro, we have worked hard to build our beautiful church and grow the faith of our parishioners. Like many organisations, we have developed a vision statement to guide our decisions and actions. Our vision statement is:

“Our Lady of the Southern Cross Parish is a safe community of love, that believes in the power of the Holy Spirit to change lives and make disciples who bring people to Jesus.

As a disciple who belongs to our community, I commit to worship, to learn, to connect, to serve, and to give.”

Our vision has been inspired by the teachings in the Bible and the experiences of many of our parishioners who have encountered Jesus and are committed to follow Him through the Parish community.

What is Baptism?

Baptism

- is the first of three sacraments of initiation into the Catholic Church.
- is the beginning of your child’s journey into the faith and into the Body of Christ, which is the community of all believers.
- is a public declaration that you are a follower of Jesus Christ
- is a public confession of your faith in, and commitment to, Jesus Christ.

For these reasons the Sacrament of Baptism is not a private family event but a public and community celebration. The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated once a month, either during our 5pm Saturday vigil mass or our 9am Sunday mass.

As our children are too young to make baptismal promises themselves, parents make this commitment on their children’s behalf. On the day of baptism, prior to mass commencing, Fr Mauro will ask you this question:

*You have asked to have your child baptised. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him/her up to keep God’s commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour. **Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?***

There are many things we teach our children. We teach them to walk, to talk, and to ride a bike. We teach them our morals and values.

In Matthew 28:19-29 we were given The Great Commission:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you.”

By making this baptismal promise, we are publicly declaring we are a follower of Jesus and his teachings and committing to help our children develop a relationship with God and guide them in the practices of the Catholic faith.

Readiness

Our experience with baptism is that many people are making this promise without fully understanding the commitment they are making.

We ask you to take some time to pray and reflect on what you are asking for your children and your readiness to make this promise.

Your readiness to take on this commitment will be dependent on where you are in your own faith journey within your local catholic Parish.

If you are regularly attending mass and involved in our community, then you may be ready to make this commitment now.

If it has been some time since you were an active member of a church community, then the readiness to make this commitment may take some time.

Wherever you are on your faith journey, our community is happy to walk alongside you and help you in preparing for the goal of baptism.

Preparation may include:

- attending mass in our parish regularly
- being an active member of our community
- taking some formation courses, such as Alpha, bible study groups etc.

To help determine what the next steps are, we ask you make a time to meet with the Baptism Team to discuss your own faith and why it is important to you to have your child baptised.

We look forward to working with you to make the baptism of your child a beautiful and meaningful experience for your family.

God bless,

OLSC Baptism Team