

TEMORA MISSION

Ardlethan/Ariah Park, Barellan/Binya, Temora/Barmedman
PO Box 78 or 111 Loftus Street, Temora, NSW
Phone: 69772104, Email: temora@cg.org.au

BEGINNING WITH BAPTISM

Congratulations and blessings on the arrival of your child! It is wonderful to share in the experience of bringing new life into our world.

Baptism is where we begin our public commitment to the people of God. It is a time of great joy and celebration for family and friends as well as the whole community. Baptism immerses us into life with Jesus Christ who shared in our lives. It plunges us into the benefits of his life of teaching and healing, his death, and his rising to new life. Our lives become a pattern of little dyings and risings like his. Baptism also affirms us as beloved children of God and that each of us are the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.

Baptism is a time for our families and godparents to be enriched in faith. Children aren't able to fully embrace what baptism means. That is where one or more godparents take on a special role. A godparent is like the child's special representative in the Church community. A godparent is a confirmed Catholic who is likely to have a long term relationship with the child and is willing to share their own faith and support the faith of the child. To be baptised in the Catholic Church we need to have at least one baptised and confirmed Catholic godparent. Families can add another person as well to be a Christian witness. Godparents and witnesses need to be at least 16 years of age.

Just as we have people we look up to, the Church has long encouraged us to give great reflection to choosing our child's name. Choosing a biblical name or a saint's name is still strongly encouraged. For example, Jesus' name means "God saves" and Claire means "light". The 'Busted Halo' website has useful video clips on sacraments, including baptism, <http://bustedhalo.com/video/baptism>.

A baptismal robe, candle and certificate will be provided by the parish. If your family has a special baptismal robe you are most welcome to use it. If your family wishes to provide their own new candle they are also welcome to do so. Please detach the form below and either email the details to temora@cg.org.au or drop it into the parish office the week before the baptism. This helps us have your certificate ready on time! Your baptismal certificate is to the faith community what your birth certificate is to civil records. *Please keep baptismal certificates in a safe place as they are needed to enrol in other sacraments, to enrol in a Catholic School and for marriage preparation. A donation of \$100.00 would be greatly appreciated if families are able. Some of this supports the clergy and some assists with the running costs of the parish.*

Many thanks and blessings

Fr Sijo Jose
Parish Priest

