

GUIDELINES FOR GOOD GODPARENTING

So, you are thinking about a Godparent for your child's upcoming baptism. This is an important decision and this leaflet may help you. Pass it onto those whom you choose, to help them understand their responsibilities, because this is not just an excuse for a party.

Who ?



Who can be a Godparent? Well, any baptised and confirmed Catholic over the age of 16. They must be of sufficient maturity to understand their responsibilities. Their primary role is to support the parents in raising the child in the Catholic faith. One is essential – two is sufficient. Baptised non-Catholics over 16 years can act as a Witness. A non-baptised person, obviously, does not share this role.

What do I do ?



Firstly, try and be there for the ceremony! A proxy is allowed if the Godparent cannot be present. It is your job, along with the parents to speak on behalf of the one being baptised. You need to be able to answer your Profession of Faith and join in reciting The Lord's Prayer. If you do not know these prayers, ask yourself why are you taking on this role?

Remember !



Birthdays, Christmas and Easter holidays are important times to remember your Godchild, but so is their baptism date. Try and be a genuine spiritual support to the parents and an honest example to your godchild. The Church and world is too easily filled with hypocrites...we have enough of those, but we are short on loving. Christians who practice what they preach.

Pray !



Whether you live near or far away from your godchild, you can always pray for them. Make daily prayer for them part of your normal routine. Even if you're not the type of person to pray daily—start doing so by praying for them. (It's your job!) Avoid the embarrassment of standing up in front of the family at the ceremony and not know the basic prayers of the Christian faith. Time to start training?

Share !



Your most important role is sharing your faith with your godchild. Spend time with them, take them to church, give them a children's Bible, give them booklets that have the prayers of the church for them to learn. As they get older, do activities or send gifts to them that have a spiritual message. Don't be shy! You are important in helping them to live their faith.

Stay aware!



Just as it's important for a parent to stay physically healthy so they can be there for their kids, it is important for godparents to stay spiritually healthy. Be sure to nurture your own relationship with God. Strengthening your own faith and understanding of God will empower you to share your faith with your godchild. Your local Catholic community would welcome your company.

