

### Is there a fee?

There is never a fee charged for the reception of a Sacrament, but we do ask for a suggested donation of £30 towards the upkeep of our Churches. Other donations will be gratefully received. Please help support our Churches as generously as you can, as we do depend on donations to keep our Churches open.

### Parish Office

Saint Oswald's Presbytery  
St Oswald Street; Old Swan  
Liverpool; L13 5SB

**Phone:** 0151 228 3327

**Email:** [stosts@rcaol.org.uk](mailto:stosts@rcaol.org.uk)

**Webpage:** [www.stoandsts.co.uk](http://www.stoandsts.co.uk)

### Parish Office hours

Monday 9:00am — 3:30pm

Tuesday 9:00am — 3:30pm

Thursday 9:00am — 3:30pm

Friday 9:00am — 3:30pm

**Office and Presbytery are closed on Wednesday**

# Baptism in Saint Oswald and Saint Sebastian



“I baptise you, in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”

## Welcome!

Welcome to the Parish of Saint Oswald and Saint Sebastian. It is great that you want to have your child Baptised; passing on your faith to your child is one of the greatest gifts that you can give to them. Baptism welcomes your child into the Christian family, and into the Catholic Church. If you wish to have your child baptised in either one of our Churches, one parent must be a Baptised Catholic (proof will be required), and you must also live within our Church boundaries. As you begin the process of bringing your child to be Baptised, we ask that the family start coming along to one of our weekend Masses on a regular basis, so as to begin to take part in the life of the wider Church Community.

### What if my child is noisy in Church?

God put the wriggle into children; so do not feel that you have to suppress it in God's house, because all are welcome! If your child makes a noise; please don't worry. After all; making noise is what children do best! Please do not feel that you have to leave the Church; always remember, adults make noise in Church, and they don't need to leave, so neither should you or your child.

### What times are the weekend Masses?

Our weekend Mass times are:

**Saturday** at 4:30pm in St Oswald's

**Sunday** at 9:30am in St Oswald's

**Sunday** at 11:00am in St Sebastian's

### When and how is Baptism celebrated?

Baptisms are normally celebrated on Sunday afternoon twice a month, at 1:00pm in either St Oswald's or St. Sebastian's. Please make sure that you and your guests arrive early, as the service will start on time, and lasts for about half an hour. The Baptism Rite is an ancient liturgy; which dates back to the early Church. You will be guided through the service; so you and your guests will be able to take part. Throughout the service, there are various items that are used, the main one being **Water**, which represents new life. Two oils will be used during the Rite; the **Oil of Catechumen**, which is used before Baptism, and the **Oil of Chrism**, which is used after. We will also use **Light**, in the form of the Easter and Baptismal Candles, reminding us that Jesus is the light of the world. We will also use a **White Garment**, reminding us that God's love surrounds us always.

## How do I book a date for Baptism?

Before booking any dates, you must start coming to Mass regularly, and then attend a Baptism Preparation Course. Only when the Baptism course is completed will dates for Baptism be discussed. **Due to the number of baptisms within our parishes, we do not celebrate individual baptisms, so your family will be one of four; whose children will receive the Sacrament on any given date.**

### Who should I choose for Godparents?

When children are Baptised within the Church, they are often too young to commit to being Christians, and so the parents promise to bring their child up to know about Jesus; God, and the Catholic faith. Godparents promise to help the parents to carry this duty out in any way they can. This is done mainly by setting a good example for the child, especially in what it means to be a follower of Jesus. A Godparent is meant to be a friend, and a support, to help your child to grow up as a 'Child of God'. Godparents should take an active interest in your child's life, and in particular; their growth in faith. You can ask two people to be Godparents for a child. To be a Godparent, they should:

- Be a Baptised Christian, and be at least 16 years of age.
- One must be a full member of the Catholic Church (they must have been Baptised, Confirmed, and also have received their First Holy Communion)
- If from a different Christian denomination, they should be a fully committed member of their community.

### Baptism is only the beginning!

Please think about enrolling your child in one of our three schools, where they will learn more about their faith, and will be educated in a caring and Christian environment. Bring your child to Mass regularly, so that they can grow up knowing that God loves them, and that they are part of the Catholic Christian family. When you bring your child for Baptism, you make a promise to bring them up in the ways of the faith, which includes coming to Mass regularly. Baptism is the start of your child's journey in faith. It is the first of the Sacraments to be received, and we look forward to celebrating the other Sacraments of Initiation with your child in the future. If you would like to learn more about your own faith, or if you are thinking about becoming a Catholic, or are getting married in one of our Churches, please speak to the Parish Office.