

## Celebration of Baptism at St Therese's Essendon

The rites for entry of children and adults into the Catholic Church have been revised with a new focus of BELONGING and INITIATION

Guidelines:

- Baptisms will only be arranged with parents. At St Therese's Baptisms are never arranged through grandparents or others.
- Baptisms are celebrated at 12 noon on the fourth Sunday of every month.
- Baptism families are invited to attend a Welcoming Rite at 10.30am Sunday Mass on the weekend prior to Baptism.
- Children should be Baptised in their own parish as they will most likely be attending that parish school where they will receive the next two Sacraments of Initiation (First Eucharist and Confirmation.)
- Families living outside our parish boundaries (including former parishioners who have not maintained active involvement) who have no link with our community should celebrate Baptism within their own parish.
- Children who live within our parish boundary should not be baptised in another Parish without the written consent of our Parish Priest.
- A person cannot be re-Baptised. A child cannot be Baptised a Catholic if they have already been Baptised in another denomination.
- In some circumstances, non-Catholic parents may have their child Baptised Catholic but only after a personal discussion and adequate preparation with our Parish Priest.
- The Sacrament will always be celebrated in St Therese's Church and not in a private house or hospital except in exceptional circumstances.
- Godparents: One sponsor is sufficient but there may be two or more. The sponsor needs to be at least 16 years of age and to be a Catholic. A non-Catholic person can be a Godparent only in company with a Catholic sponsor.
- Once a Baptism application has been accepted, a member of the parish team will arrange a pastoral meeting.