

Baptism 2020 - (For Parishioners:)

Central to Baptism is Fostering Committed Parishioners.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin recently announced that a new approach is to be taken in the Catholic Parishes of the Dublin Diocese to the preparation for and celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, First Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

This new approach will be centered on supporting parents in sharing faith with their child.

The primary responsibility and greatest privilege of parents is to bring their child up in the practice of the Faith. In order to be able to do so, they need to understand the Faith, as well as appreciate their role of involvement and commitment in handing on the Faith to their child.

It will take time to work out the details and full implications of this proposal, which has come about after a year of consultation in the Diocese with parents, teachers and priests.

But the Archbishop wants us to begin now.

In response to the Archbishop's request, we in the Parish of Kilnamanagh and Castleview are introducing some adjustments to our preparation for Baptism for 2020.

We are in a time when parents need to appreciate anew that Baptism is not anonymous or automatic, not a once-off or drive-through event, and that there are stages and commitments involved in the journey towards Baptism. **As the heading to this note states:**

Central to Baptism is Fostering Committed Parishioners.

When parents approach the Parish requesting Baptism for their child they will be welcomed, and they will be invited to attend the next Information Meeting For Baptism.

(Parents need to make sure that they are booked in for this meeting. This is crucial.)

They will be given our **Baptism Schedule for 2020** and they will be made aware that all arrangements are **provisional until after they attend the Information Meeting For Baptism**.

The various forms and documents that they need will be provided at this time.

Questions that will be explored at the Information Meeting For Baptism will include:

What is Baptism in the Catholic Church?

What is expected of parents who present their child for Baptism in the Catholic Church?

What does it mean to say: *Central to Baptism is Fostering Committed Parishioners*.

What or Who is a Parish? What does it mean to be a Parishioner?

What should Parishioners be doing to secure the future of their Parish?

These questions are very relevant to our times and to the future of our Parish.

After the Information Meeting For Baptism, parents can confirm arrangements for the Stages in their child's Baptism and complete all relevant forms.

There will be follow-up contact with parents who present their child for Baptism.

Parish Office Tel 4515570.

Parish Website www.kilnamanaghcastleview.com.

Parish Catechist, Natalie Doherty, Tel 087 6101062.

Parish Priest, Fr Michael Murphy, can be contacted through the Parish Office.