



*Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.*

## DATES FOR 2017

### Preparation evenings

- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February
- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May
- Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September
- Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October

### Baptism Sundays

Baptisms will usually take place at 1pm.

- Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February
- Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April
- Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> June
- Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July
- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September
- Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November

#### Parish Priest

Fr John Cooke  
266 2034

#### Parish Baptism Catechists

Richard & Christine Watts  
266 7437

# ST WILLIAMS CHURCH



Baptising your child  
at  
St William of York  
Sheffield

2017

## Choosing Baptism for your child

Most parents would agree there is nothing like the feeling of holding a newborn child in your arms. The sense of wonder, the feeling of gratitude, and the responsibility can be overwhelming. The experience of birth is a moment when we are aware that life is bigger than we are, that God is the source of life and love. Babies are a gift and they remind us that all life is a gift from God.

Just as God gave your child the gift of life, God wants to give your child the gift of faith. As you were an instrument of God in giving your child human life, so too, by having your child Baptised you are an instrument through which God gives your child faith.

In Baptism the gift of faith is like a seed planted in fertile soil. Your love, your teaching and your example are the sun, the rain and the nourishment that allows the seed of faith to grow.

Baptism is a wonderful celebration in which everyone has an important part to play. As co-creators with God and as the primary influence on your child's life, your role as parent is essential. In the celebration of Baptism you also play an important role. You are the ones who choose Baptism for your child, who present your child to the church, give him or her a name, testify to the faith that you will share and promise to be a good example to your child.

## Requirements

To have a child baptised at St William's at least one parent **and** one Godparent must be baptised, practising Catholics.

### Being part of St William's community

If you are new in the Parish or returning to the practice of your faith, the parish particularly wants to support you and so might suggest taking time to get to know the community a little.

Presenting an older child for Baptism may also need careful age-appropriate preparation with the child and may take more time.

### Preparation for Baptism

In order to prepare for your child's Baptism it is requested that you attend an evening of preparation. The purpose of the evening is to think and talk about what you are undertaking by asking for Baptism for your child.

The evening will be held in one of the Meeting rooms in the Parish Centre. Tuesdays have been organised for this year but a flexible approach can be taken, subject to numbers. The start time is 8pm and the sessions last about two hours. Exact details will be confirmed to you closer to the date.

See dates on the reverse.

## What to do next?

### 1. Make an appointment to see Fr John

Fr John would like to meet all parents asking for children to be baptised at St William's. Either email the parish office: [office@stwilliamofyorksheffield.org.uk](mailto:office@stwilliamofyorksheffield.org.uk) or telephone Fr John.

### 2. Complete the Baptism Request form

After your appointment with Fr John you will need to fill in the Baptism Request form.

- Email the office to request a form
- The form will be attached to a reply
- Complete the form
- Email back the completed form

### 3. Attend a Preparation evening

Before your child is baptised we ask that you attend a preparation session. Contact Christine and Richard Watts to do this.

### 4. Choose your date

We have Baptism Sundays through the year. Baptisms will usually take place at 1pm. Baptism will be conferred either by the priest, Fr John, or the deacon, John Biggins.

**Fr John Cooke**  
**266 2034**

**Christine & Richard Watts**  
**266 7437**