

Conversation and Mass come first

Your pathway does not begin with a website or an application form. It begins with a personal conversation. Sunday Mass and parish life then give the preparation its ordinary setting. The website simply keeps everything for this pathway together in one place.

YOU WILL BE ACCOMPANIED

You and your child will be accompanied as a family. The Church will take seriously the Christian faith and formation your child has already received. A parish mentor may walk alongside you where helpful, making room for the child's own questions and adapting the pace to real understanding.

YOUR TEACHING RESOURCE: CATECHISM + PARISH APP

Your printed foundation is Coming into the Catholic Church - A Preparation Catechism for Baptised Children. It contains sixteen guided lessons. The Reception of a Baptised Child app on the parish page includes the full text with questions to help your child remember what has been learned. Use the book and app to support conversation, prayer and understanding - not to replace them.

Find everything for your pathway

The parish page contains the full pathway details, preparation catechism, app and links to begin.

cathparishmje.co.uk/coming-into-the-catholic-church-baptised-children/

Mass times: cathparishmje.co.uk/mass-times/

CONTACT THE PARISH

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COMING INTO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH BAPTISED CHILDREN

A simple parish guide for baptised children aged seven and over and their families

THIS PATHWAY IS FOR YOU IF...

This pathway is for you and your child if your child is aged seven or over, has already received a valid Christian Baptism outside the Catholic Church, has not yet been received into full communion, and wishes with your support to become Catholic.

What are you asking for?

You are asking the Church to prepare your child to profess the Catholic faith and enter full visible communion with the Catholic Church. Your child is already Christian through Baptism, so Baptism is not repeated. The pathway leads to First Confession, reception, Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

One Baptism, fuller communion

The Catholic Church recognises the real bond with Christ created by every valid Christian Baptism. Preparation builds upon the Christian faith already received and helps your child freely embrace the fullness of Catholic faith and sacramental life.

THE PARISH PRINCIPLE

The first step is a conversation. Preparation then grows within Sunday Mass and parish life. The preparation catechism and parish app help with the teaching; they do not replace personal accompaniment.

WHAT THIS MEANS IN PRACTICE

The aim is a real Catholic life: professing the faith, receiving the sacraments reverently, praying, worshipping at Sunday Mass and belonging to the Church.

How the pathway works

1. CONVERSATION

Begin with your child and family. The priest checks the Baptism, the child's present Christian practice, whether either parent is Catholic, and any sacraments already received. Bring the baptismal certificate if you have it.

2. SUNDAY MASS

Sunday Mass is at the heart of preparation. Begin attending regularly while the enquiry and preparation are taking place. Before reception, your child joins the prayer of the Church but does not yet receive Holy Communion.

3. CATECHISM + APP

Work through Coming into the Catholic Church - A Preparation Catechism for Baptised Children. It contains sixteen guided lessons. A parent or parish mentor can walk alongside your child, and the parish app can help with the teaching and questions.

4. FIRST CONFESSION, RECEPTION & INITIATION

First Confession comes first. When your child is ready, the Profession of Faith and Reception into Full Communion, Confirmation and First Holy Communion will ordinarily take place together. The priest arranges the details personally.

What preparation includes

- God, creation, the Holy Trinity, Jesus Christ and his Church
- Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition, Baptism and the life of grace
- sin, conscience, the Commandments and preparation for First Confession
- the Mass, the Real Presence, Profession of Faith, Confirmation and First Holy Communion
- prayer, Our Lady, the saints, the four last things and living faithfully as a Catholic

PACE

Readiness is based on understanding, sincere faith, Sunday Mass and a real desire to become Catholic, not simply finishing lessons.

The sacraments and the life that follows

Valid Baptism is never repeated

Your child is already Christian through Baptism. The Church builds upon the grace already given. If the Baptism is uncertain, or was in an Eastern Christian Church, speak with the priest before beginning.

First Confession

Before reception, your child prepares to recognise sin, trust Christ's mercy, make a simple examination of conscience and celebrate sacramental Confession. This forms a real habit of repentance and conversion.

Profession of Faith and Reception

Reception means freely professing the Catholic faith and entering full visible communion with the Catholic Church - sharing her faith, sacramental life and communion with the Pope and the bishops united with him.

Confirmation and First Holy Communion

Once properly prepared, reception, Confirmation and First Holy Communion will ordinarily be celebrated together. Confirmation strengthens by the Holy Spirit; in the Eucharist your child receives Jesus Christ himself.

Your family matters

Parents remain the first teachers of their children in faith. The parish supports you, and a mentor may walk alongside where helpful. Catholic faith lived at home and Sunday Mass are central.

LIFE AFTERWARDS

Reception is a beginning. Your child continues through Sunday Mass, Holy Communion, regular Confession, prayer, charity, formation and full belonging in the Church.