***St Rita’s Catholic Parish***

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**BAPTISMAL PROTOCOL**

Dear Parents,

Thank you for choosing St. Rita’s Catholic Parish for the Baptism of your child. This is some important information for you that will assist you in your preparation.

• **CRITERIA FOR BAPTISM**: The request for the Baptism should come from the parents of the child to be baptised. We require the permission of both parents for the baptism of a child.

• **BOOK EARLY**: Father Ladu has requested that the number of Baptisms celebrated on each occasion be restricted. So it is important to register early.

• **BAPTISM DATES**: The Sacrament of Baptism is held outside the Mass on Sundays, at 10:30am.

• **PUNCTUALITY**: Often there is more than one Baptism on each occasion. It is important to be in the church at least 10 or 15 minutes in advance.

• **GODPARENTS**: The role of the godparent is to support the parents and the child in their duty as Christian parents. There is a requirement that at least one godparent be Catholic. If necessary, you might have a second godparent who is not Catholic if he/she is baptised in their own Christian faith. All godparents must be 18 years old or over.

• **BAPTISMAL PREPARATION**: Kindly complete the attached Baptism Application Form and return it to the parish office together with a *copy of the child’s Birth Certificate*. When these documents are returned, you will be contacted to make an appointment to meet with Fr Ladu. Meetings usually take place on a Wednesday. Parent/parents need to meet with the Parish Priest to discuss the Baptism and to confirm a date for the Baptism. **This is a mandatory requirement.**

• **DONATION**: There is no fee required, but a donation would be gratefully received.

We look forward to welcoming your child into our faith community. If you have any questions please contact the parish office, we will be only too happy to help you.

Kind regards and God bless,

Parish Secretary

*(Information as at 17/01/2023)*