APPLICATION FOR BAPTISM

Date of Baptism: _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ **Time of Baptism:** _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Christian Name(s) and Surname of Child to be Baptised

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Sacred Heart Church, Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire, SN4 7AH

Dear Parents,
Do you want your child to be baptised?

Baptism is a very important step to take and it needs to be thought about carefully. It means much more than a ceremony in Church, or an excuse for a party! Being baptised means becoming a Christian – and being a Christian is something that should influence the way you think, the way you talk and the way you live your life everyday.
Baptism means a life-long commitment to God. When a child is baptised, the parents undertake to bring up their child to know and to practice their faith and the faith of the church, until the child is old enough to make that faith their own.

What is Baptism?
The Sacrament of Baptism is given by pouring water in the name of the three Persons of the Trinity. Jesus told us that unless a man is born again of water and the Holy Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven. It is through God's action in this Sacrament that we become members of his Church and are adopted into his Family. Water is the symbol of life, and the life that we are given in Baptism is the life of Christ Himself. We become new people and with God's help we have to try to live a new kind of life.

What Does This Mean For Parents?
As parents you have given life to your child, but birth is only a beginning. Your baby still depends on you for everything, for food, clothes and a loving home in which to grow. This is equally true of the Christian life. Baptism is only the beginning, every child develops by being trained and the home is the main training ground with parents the most important teachers. Parents naturally pass on their language and their culture to their children – those who gratefully acknowledge the Christian faith as part of their way of life cannot but wish to pass that on too.

How Can They Do This?
It is in the home, where the child first experiences love and a sense of belonging, that he will also learn about the love of God and learn to talk to God in prayer. All children learn naturally more from the example of the daily lives of their parents than from any formal teaching of the principles and guidelines of Christian living.

When your child is at school, you will find that a Catholic School will help you to continue their education. As well as the usual academic skills and crafts, the school will help you prepare your child for the sacraments and deepen their knowledge of the Catholic faith and moral values. The school though is no substitute for a family where the faith is really lived and practised, a home where there is kindness, honesty and true Christian love, a home that recognises its need for God through prayer, through coming to Mass and regular use of the sacraments.