

THE LOUGHSORE PARISHES

St. Mary's Parish
Greencastle

St. Mary, Star of the Sea Parish
Whitehouse

Saint James' Parish
Whiteabbey

BAPTISM ARRANGEMENTS DURING COVID 2021

The following guidelines will apply during the time of the pandemic:

1. There will be one child per ceremony (except if there is more than one child in the same family for baptism).
2. All baptisms will take place in St Mary's Greencastle as there is less space for social distancing in the other churches.
3. People should **arrive at the church door just 5-10 mins before the ceremony** and observe social distancing.
4. We will try to keep the ceremony to ½ hour period. Considering there will be only one child to be baptised, we believe that this will be enough time for the ceremony and for some photographs afterwards.
5. Please keep to 10 people per baptism including parents and the two sponsors (not the baby).
6. If children are in attendance it is important that they do not run around the Church in and out of the pews - touching the pews.

Days	1st Baptism	2nd Baptism
SATURDAY	12noon-12.30pm	12.40pm

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WHAT NEEDS DONE?

1. If you live in the parish, please complete the form below and return it to the parish office, either by email or post through the letterbox at the parish office door.
 - a. Please photocopy, photograph or scan **the child's LONG birth certificate** and return it with the form below.
 - b. We are now using the terms **SPONSORS**. **You only need ONE SPONSOR (like Confirmation) but you may have TWO SPONSORS** (one of each gender). A SPONSOR is one who *sponsors the child in faith*: promises to support the child in faith and should therefore take seriously their own faith in God and the Catholic Church. In mixed marriages one sponsor *must* be Catholic but another person from another Christian denomination and **who is baptised** can act as a 'Christian Witness'.
 - c. Sponsors must be **16+ years of age**.
 - d. Please consider making one the child's names a '**Christian**' name - i.e. a name from the bible, a saint's name or a name with a Christian meaning. It does not matter if this name is not on the birth certificate; it is a baptismal name.
 - e. There will not be any baptism meeting at the present time.
 - f. Baptism candles with a special container will be available on request at the church on the day (£5). Please let the parish office know if you require one.
 - g. The recommended offering for baptism is £20 or whatever you can afford.

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The Parish Office – loughshore@downandconnor.org

(please complete and return this page to the parish office)

Child's name(s) <i>(as recorded on the Civil Birth Certificate)</i>	
Date of birth	
Father's names	
Mother's names <i>(note – Mother's maiden name)</i>	
Church of marriage (if applicable)	
Home Address	
Phone number	
E-mail address.	
Sponsor (s)	
1 st preferred date & time	
2nd preferred date & time	
Baptismal candle required?	Y / N

Please include a copy of the LONG BIRTH CERTIFICATE

*Once the parish receives the above form,
someone will ring you to confirm availability*