## The Responsibilities of Parents

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After the birth of your child you brought her/him to the Church to be baptised.

During the celebration before the actual Baptism, the celebrant will say:

 You have asked to have your child baptised. In doing so you are accepting responsibility of training him/her in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him/her up to keep God’s commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour. Do you clearly understand what you are doing?

You respond: I/We do

Baptism is not a private affair. We are baptised into a community of Faith.

Due to the promise you are going to make at your child’s baptism when your child is 7 - 8 years old and ready to take another step in his/her journey of Faith there are further responsibilities. Your child will be able to prepare for Reconciliation, Confirmation and Eucharist you will need to encourage and support them in the process.

You are the most important teachers of the faith. Your child learns most from you in matters of Faith. “Faith is caught not taught.” If you’ve drifted away from the celebration of the sacraments this might be a good time/right time to think again.

The school RE programme supports you in this important task of preparing you as does the parish but it is you, as parents who best prepare your children.

These are some ways in which you will be able to do this in the years to come.

1. Taking my child to Mass especially Sunday Mass.
2. Teaching my child right from wrong.
3. Teaching my child to share.
4. Listening to my child.
5. Telling my child stories about Jesus and other Bible stories.
6. Helping my child to say, “I’m sorry”.
7. Saying night prayers with my child.
8. Saying grace before meals with my family.
9. Encouraging my child to make up their own prayers as well as teaching them the traditional ones.
10. Showing my child how to be a good friend.