



All Saints, Anywhere

Ideas for Godparents

Spring 2010

In addition to all the responsibilities you may feel as a Godparent, it can be great fun! Aim to make seeing your Godchild enjoyable for both of you - learn as much about their life as you can; take an interest in their likes and dislikes, the things they find difficult and those which are a joy.

Here are a few ideas.....

- * Go for a walk in the countryside or a park to look for signs of spring - new shoots, daffodils, blossom on trees.
- * Talk about Lent and Easter— the Love Life, Live Lent resources for children and young people gives ideas for families during Lent, see www.livelent.net for more information.
- * Invite the family for a pancake party.
- * Depending on the age of your Godchild, help or enable them to make a Mothering Sunday card for his/her mum.
 - * Send a card at Easter.
 - * Have a family Easter Egg hunt
- * Offer to babysit to give their parents some time together.
- * Share stories together.
- * Pray regularly for your Godchild and his/her family.



A Prayer

Almighty God, thank you for (name).

Thank you for the privilege of being his/her godparent. Bless (name) and his/her parents, may they all know your love and peace throughout their lives and grow to know you better every day.

Guide me as a Godparent to support and encourage (name) in every aspect of life, that he/she may realise their full potential.

May his/her life be filled with love, laughter and generosity, may he/she never be lonely and in the difficult times may he/she still have a thankful heart. Protect them Lord and may all his/her days be filled with wonder and joy and the nearness of you.

Amen.

Ideas for Godparents Preparation

We have a wonderful opportunity to spend time with parents and godparents before any child is baptised.

A simple model for Godparents' preparation could be based around the following:

1. Welcome
2. A very brief (no more than 5 mins!) history of godparents, just to give some context.
3. Explore the promises the godparents will make, with parents, on behalf of the child.
4. Consider together how those promises may be upheld.
5. Follow-up to the Baptism - discuss what the church offers to support godparents.
6. Any questions.

It would also be good to invite godparents to any baptism rehearsal.

Some points to consider:

Under point 4 above, this should not become a lecture or list of what ought to be done. It may be worth considering some of the suggestions in the cards and ideas sheets for godparents included in this pack.

Encourage godparents to think positively about those things they can do rather than feel guilty about what they cannot.

Consider where godparents are in their own faith journey in these discussions.

When you are considering any support the church will offer, again be realistic. The ideas sheet example, invitations to special services and social events are all things which need some coordination. However, it is important to ensure that those taking up the invitations receive a genuinely warm welcome when they come back!

N.B.

The ideas here are for preparing godparents for their role; any ideas you may have to support parents in making their choice of godparents need to be dealt with long before this stage 1