

How do I pray for me and my godchild?

Take a few moments to remember your godchild. You might like to light a candle or look at a photograph. Here are two prayers which you might find helpful:



Lord God, I pray that you will guide and help me in being a godparent. Give me your wisdom and your love. Help me to be a good example of Christian living and help me remember my godchild [name]. Amen.

*Heavenly father,
Thank you for the precious gift of [name] and for all the joy that she/he brings us. Be with her/him on her journey through life so she/he may come to know you our Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour and Friend. Amen.*

For more help on being a godparent, try
Someone to Watch Over Me - An essential guide to Godparenting. Peter Hinton and Iona Joy (ISBN 1-84549-076-2)

Family Options - Godparents. John Bradford, David Gamble and Joan King (ISBN 0-7197-0982-2)

Mothers' Union supports all that strengthens and builds up Family Life.

More information about the work of Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Winchester can be found at www.muwinchester.org.uk

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Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Winchester



Becoming a Godparent

Being asked to be a godparent is a great honour. It means that your friends or relations trust you to help them bring up their child in the Christian faith.

The role of a godparent is an important one; it is hoped that this leaflet will help you understand what is involved

You have been asked to be a Godparent, alongside others, at the Baptism of your relations or friends child.

So what do godparents do?



During the service:

Godparents stand with the parents and present the child for baptism. They then make important promises in which they commit themselves to care for their godchild, to pray for them, and to encourage them to grow in faith and into a membership of the local church.

After the service:

This is when the godparent's role really begins, and not just in the sense of sending presents at birthdays and Christmas!

Ideally, as a godparent you will:

- Go on praying for your godchild
- Keep in touch with them and their family; in time this contact may be by a card, e-mail, text, etc.
- give a present or a card on the baptism anniversary: this will help your godchild understand why their baptism was a significant point in their life.
- Lead them by your example towards a Christian way of life
- Continue to support and encourage them until they can make their baptismal promises for themselves at Confirmation.

Be able to listen to your godchild, as s/he gets older, they may want to talk to you about important things in their lives, including their faith, and it's important in today's world to have a trusted adult friend.

Who can be a godparent?

Normally godparents are family or close friends of the child's parents. Traditionally the Church has required at least three godparents, two of whom are the same and one of the opposite sex as the child. Usually the godparents themselves have been baptised; and are

confirmed members of the Church, the local minister will advise you and/or the parents about this.. Reading all this, it's clear that becoming a godparent is a big responsibility, at least if we want to take our promises seriously.

Some questions often asked

- Q. Does being a godparent involve becoming a legal guardian?
- A. No. The roles are separate, though godparents may also become guardians.
- Q. I am not sure I'm up to this. How do I know if I have enough faith to keep these promises?
- A. Jesus told his disciples that they'd do great things if they had faith "the size of a mustard seed". What matters isn't the extent of our faith: it's that our faith is in a great and loving God.
- Q. What should I do if I've not thought much about faith or haven't been to church regularly?
- A. Becoming a godparent is an ideal opportunity to discover more about Christian faith for yourself. Many churches offer Courses, which are designed to help people to explore what it means to be a Christian. Going on a course like this will certainly help you fulfil your commitments to your godchild.

What might I give my godchild?

The most important gifts you can give your godchild are your prayers, your love and your support. If you want to mark the baptism with a gift, the ideal present is something that your godchild will appreciate and use more as s/he grows up.

Here are a few ideas:

- A Bible: some are designed for children, with pictures and simple language; others with a more adult layout.
- A Book of Bible stories: illustrated for younger children.
- A Book of Prayers
- A small wooden cross or a cross on a chain; or perhaps a candleholder to fit your godchild's baptismal candle.

