



DIOCESE OF Hexham & Newcastle

Rt Rev Robert Byrne CO
Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle

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Dear Parent/Guardian

I am delighted that you are presenting your child for Baptism and congratulate you on taking this important step. Pope Francis, in his homily preached to the parents and families present at the baptism of their children on 8 January 2017 said:

You have asked for faith: the Church gives faith to your children with Baptism, and you have the task of making it grow, safeguarding it, so that it may become testimony for all others.

In these challenging times when safeguarding our health and safety is so important, your local parish will continue to support you as you accept your responsibility for the good of your child's faith. Online resources prepared by the Diocese will be made available to you through the parish, to help you reflect on and pray about your duties as Christian parents. I am grateful to our parish catechists for the imaginative ways in which they have made these resources available to you via online meetings.

In thanksgiving and joy, I encourage you to trace the Sign of the Cross on your child's forehead, and pray for your child in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Please be assured of my support and prayers and of those of your parish community.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely in Christ

Right Reverend Robert Byrne, CO
Bishop of Hexham and Newcastle