



Homily for A Baptism - Saturday 10th October 2026

St Mary's, Paisley • Diocese of Paisley

One of the lovely things about a child's first birthday is that the celebration means much more to the adults than it does to the child. A little one might enjoy the cake, the attention, or perhaps just the wrapping paper. But the family knows what they are celebrating: a whole year of loving their child, getting to know them, and watching them discover the world.

A baptism around that first birthday offers another beginning to celebrate.

A child doesn't yet understand what is happening. But they already know something about love: the comfort of being held, the sound of familiar voices, and the reassurance of someone coming when they cry.

Those are their first lessons about love. In time, they can help them understand something about God.

Because God's love comes before our understanding. A child doesn't have to achieve anything to receive baptism. They don't have to get the answers right. In baptism, they receive new life in Christ as a gift. The family and the Church will spend years helping them discover what that gift means.

Celebrating a baptism during our parish's 150th anniversary reminds us of the generations who have brought their children to this church. Parents and godparents have stood beside the font with love, hope, and questions about what the future might hold.

Every newly baptised child joins that story. And we, as a parish, have a responsibility to make room for them: to help them grow up knowing that church is somewhere they are welcomed, somewhere they can ask questions, somewhere they can find Jesus.

Parents and godparents don't need to have every answer. Faith grows through small things: a prayer at bedtime, a visit to church, an act of kindness, an apology when something goes wrong. Children learn a great deal about God from the way we love them—and the way we love one another.

As we give thanks for the gift of a child's life and for 150 years of faith in our parish, we ask for this simple grace: that every child welcomed through baptism will discover that the love surrounding them is a little glimpse of the love God has for them, every day of their life.