

GREEK CATHEDRAL
AGHIA SOPHIA



THE VICARAGE
MOSCOW ROAD
LONDON W2 4LQ
Telephone: 020 7229 7260
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BAPTISM GUIDE: CHILDREN

Godparents

The Godparent must be Orthodox Christian. If you wish to have more than one Godparent, at least one of them has to be Orthodox Christian. There is no minimum age for a Godparent but we recommend a min. age of 12 yrs.

The Godparent should be ready to recite the Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed either in Greek or English. Please make sure you give them a copy of the Creed. It can be found here:

<https://www.goarch.org/-/the-nicene-creed>

Paperwork required

We do not require any paperwork in order for a baptism to take place. We do not need to see the child's birth certificate or the baptism certificates of the assigned Godparents. We trust that you will comply with the rules detailed in the above section.

Items required for a child baptism

The following items are compulsory:

- 1 large white or ivory baptismal towel
- 1 large white or ivory oil sheet (λαδόπανα) to be used with the towel
- 1 small white or ivory towel (for use by the priest and godparent)
- 1 small bottle of olive oil (500ml)
- 1 large white baptism candle
- 1 bar of white soap
- 1 white cap
- 1 white vest
- Change of new white clothes for the baby to wear immediately after the baptism
- Cross (usually gold)

You can find some baptism goods at Anna's Christening Centre in Edmonton

http://www.annaschristeningcentre.co.uk/greek_christenings.php

Bookings

We have a large number of baptisms throughout the year and we do our utmost to accommodate everyone who wishes to hold a baptismal ceremony at our Cathedral. As a result, we can only hold a provisional booking for two weeks, after which time the booking will be cancelled. We cannot hold more than two provisional dates for any one family.

Fr Theonas or another priest will officiate the baptism service. While we will try and accommodate any requests for a specific priest to be at the ceremony, we cannot always guarantee that this will be possible. Advance notice cannot be given if the priest you asked for will not be available on the day.

Fees

In order to secure your booking, you must pay a non-refundable deposit of £100.00. The total cost of a baptism at the Cathedral is £490.00 for an individual child or £530.00 for twins.

Bank transfer details: **HSBC Bank, Greek Cathedral St Sophia, Sort code: 40-05-33, A/C: 61506935**. Please put your name and the date of the baptism as a reference when making a bank transfer.

If you wish to pay by cheque please make it payable to "Greek Cathedral St Sophia". We do not accept card payments.

Choir

If you wish to have the Choir, an additional charge of £475.00 is requested. A non-refundable deposit of £75.00 is required along with the deposit for the Cathedral fees. At least three weeks advance notice is needed for choir bookings, and at least a week's notice if you wish to cancel.

Orthodox chanting is part of the baptism service. No other singing or playing of music is allowed.

On the day

Please arrive no more than 15 minutes before the start time of your booking. If another ceremony is taking place at the time, please respect the family and ask for your guests to wait quietly outside the church until it is your turn to come in.

Baptism times must be strictly adhered to. We cannot wait for late arrivals as there are likely to be other ceremonies following yours. While small delays are understandable due to traffic, we ask that you plan your journey well in advance and check for any road traffic incidents that may cause a delay. If you arrive later than five or ten minutes from the start of your booking, we will not hold up the start time of the following booking and so your ceremony may have to be cancelled and your payment will not be returned. Please note that baptisms last approximately 35 minutes.

Parking

There is no on-site parking at our Cathedral, however there are parking meters on Moscow Road and the surrounding area. Parking is free on a single yellow line or pay and display meter after 1.30pm on a Saturday and all of Sunday.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office of the Greek Cathedral St Sophia, tel.: +44 (0) 203 887 0692 or +44 (0) 207 229 7260, email: info@stsophia.org.uk, web: www.stsophia.org.uk