



Sacred Heart High School

PROOF OF BAPTISM – GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS

I haven't got a certificate of baptism

1. Whether a baptism took place in this country or anywhere else in the world, obtaining a certificate of baptism is usually quicker and easier than most people assume.
2. A copy of a certificate can usually be obtained quickly and easily from the parish of baptism, whichever country this is in.

I don't know / can't remember which parish it was

3. If the location of the parish is not known, or the parish no longer exists, enquiries may be made of the diocese in which the parish is located. Telephone numbers for most of these are available from International Directory Enquiries and are listed in the Vatican directory the Annuario Pontificio for the current year.
4. If the name of the diocese is not known, then enquiries can be made of the national Episcopal Conference or of the local Papal Nuncio's office. Alternatively, the website www.katolsk.no/utenriks/liste_en.htm lists all Catholic dioceses worldwide by country. Used in connection with a good atlas (try www.multimap.com) this will usually identify the nearest diocese. The site also has links to diocesan websites – most dioceses now have one.

The records at my parish have been destroyed

5. In some parishes, records may have been destroyed, e.g. by fire, flood or war. If this is the case, the diocese or equivalent will be able to confirm this in writing.

Further Guidance

6. For further guidance on this topic, contact the Westminster Diocese Education Service, e-mail: education@rcdow.org.uk tel: 020 7798 9005.