



from *The Diocese of Saldanha Bay*

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This Pastoral Statement may be used by the Clergy in the Parishes to give to Parishioners to give further understanding to the Regulations of Covid-19

THE SACRAMENT of HOLY BAPTISM

Holy Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian Life, the gateway to Life in the Holy Spirit and the door which gives access to all the other Sacraments.

It lays the very foundation of the Christian Life.

So, it is with deep anguish and sadness that we have to accept that during the Covid-19 Lockdown Regulations that we cannot administer the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

EMERGENCY BAPTISM

Emergency Baptism may be administered to anyone in danger of dying unbaptized, provided that in the case of an adult there is evidence to show that he/she is desirous of it.

In an emergency, a Lay Person may administer Baptism.

The Priest must be notified of this without delay.

The Person administering the sacrament pours water upon the person being baptized saying:

N _____ I baptise you in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

See APB pp. 396

I place this before us as a reminder that if circumstances should prevail during Covid-19 Lockdown, then an Emergency Baptism should take place.

Please keep in pastoral and administrative contact with the Parents and Godparents of all the Children in the Parish to be Baptised.

Extend our love and care to all those who are waiting patiently and obediently for the Baptism of the Children to take place

Yours in Christ,

+Raphael

The Bishop of the Diocese of Saldanha Bay