

WHAT IS A NAMING CEREMONY?

WHAT IS A NAMING CEREMONY AND WHAT IS INCLUDED?

A naming ceremony is a special way of formally introducing your child to your extended family and friends. There are no specific requirements for a naming – it can be designed according to what you would like included.

- It is designed to welcome your child in a way that is significant to you, by reflecting your own personal values and beliefs.
- It provides the opportunity for parents to declare in front of family and friends, their promises and commitments to their child.
- The child's chosen guardians are publicly announced and acknowledged and pledge their commitment to love, support and be part of your child's life.
- Involving older siblings can be a great way to strengthen bonds, consolidate their own place in the family and make them feel special during the ceremony.
- Grandparents or other special people can be acknowledged and included, conveying how important they are in the life of your child.
- As with a Christening, there are no legal requirements in a Naming Ceremony.
- A commemorative certificate is present at the end of the ceremony as a personal keepsake of your child's special day.

DO I HAVE TO HAVE GODPARENTS?

No you don't!! You can choose anyone to commit to your child – or simply just make the entire ceremony about your child! Some ideas could be:

- If you like the idea of godparents but don't like the name, call them something else! Guardians, sponsors, spare parents, special friends, fairy godparents are just a few of the terms that can be used. Or come up with something completely unique to you!
- Have your child's grandparents make promises and commitments
- Only have promises and commitments made by you, the parents.

CAN IT INCLUDE RELIGION?

You are welcome to use any religious readings or spiritual content that you special meaning to you. A simple water ceremony can also be included if you wish.

HOW LONG DOES THE CEREMONY LAST?

Again, this one is a personal choice! A basic ceremony usually takes around 15-20 minutes, depending on readings and inclusions. If you would like a longer ceremony, simply discuss the additional inclusions you would like with your celebrant.

