

Baptism Kit 2015

The Anglican Parish of Banyule

*Parish Centers at Heidelberg, Rosanna and Watsonia
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Holy Spirit, Watsonia

St Andrew's, Rosanna

St John's, Heidelberg

Baptism in the Parish of Banyule

Welcome!

Thank you for enquiring about Baptism here in our Parish.

We believe Baptism is an important event in a family's life.

As you will see from the attached material, we ask you to prepare well for this event, so that it is as meaningful for you and your child as possible.

You may like to tentatively book a date for the baptism as you begin.

Then we ask that you attend a series of 4 sessions to discuss the Christian faith and your own response to it.

If you want something simpler, we can also offer you a Thanksgiving Service for the birth of a child, which may appeal to you if you do not want the level of commitment that Baptism asks of you. In this ceremony we thank God for your child and pray for His blessing on your child's life.

The next step now is to come for an interview with the minister, who will take you through the process. Please feel free to ask any questions at this first exploratory meeting, and do come ready and willing to share your own ideas.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

With every good wish.

Rev Philip Trowse
Senior Minister
Anglican Parish of Banyule

Welcome!

Baptism classes

We run 4 Baptism preparation courses in the year, (4 sessions each) once each term. These are held after the service at St John's. You will join with other families in our Church family who are exploring the possibility of having their child baptized.

These are held after the morning service, so you and your family can join us for worship at 10am. Children of all ages are welcome to attend the Sunday School class in the lower hall during the service each week.

We also have a monthly All Ages service on the first Sunday of the month. These are usually held in the hall and have a slightly more contemporary feel. We include the kids in this service and have special activities for them.

ALL BAPTISM CLASSES ARE HELD IN THE LOWER HALL, AT ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, 1 BURGUNDY ST HEIDELBERG 3084 (MELWAY REF: 32 B4)

Thank you for inquiring about baptism in our parish...

Baptism is a sign of God's love. Through baptism, God offers us new life in Christ. Those who are baptised are called to live as disciples of Christ.

Baptised into Christ, we become a member of the Christian church as well as a local congregation. Your child will need to learn God's story as revealed in the Bible, a way of life which honours God, and the presence of the Holy Spirit living in us who affirms us as God's own children.

At our church, we welcome the opportunity to encourage you in your journey of faith. We have a caring and kind congregation who love welcoming new members and are always there to help and support you during this important time.

We want to make this day special for you and your family as you affirm your relationship with God. If you would like to talk to someone in further detail about baptism at our church, please phone our office at St John's, Heidelberg, on (03) 9457 1144, or contact one of our ministers:

Ministry Team:

Rev Philip Trowse	0416 230 455	pgtrouse@gmail.com
Rev René Pfizner	0401 609 946	rene.pfizner@gmail.com

Baptism for Your Child

If you are inquiring about baptism for your child, congratulations! Whether born to you or adopted, the one you hold in your arms is a beautiful blessing – God’s special gift to you.

You have either decided or are thinking about baptism for your child. So why baptise your child?

A child is much more than ‘mine’ or ‘ours’: He or she is God’s creation, God’s child.

A child needs to belong to a community of people who share a history, a way of life and a hope for the future.

We want to surround a child with the love and promises of God, the community *and* the parents.

Every human needs God’s forgiving and liberating power. A newborn child is innocent, but part of the human race which is ensnared with selfish impulses so that we often hurt others we love – this is what Christians call ‘sin’.

In coming to Baptism, you are responding to a beautiful gift – and seeking God’s blessing on your child.

The Service

Water

During the baptism of your child, water is poured on your child’s head. This symbolises the cleansing of your child and the deliverance from sin, death and the devil.

Words

The minister will pour water over your child’s head saying “I baptise you in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit”.

Cross

The minister and sometimes the godparents will sign the child’s forehead with a cross. This shows that your child is marked as Christ’s own forever.

Candle

A candle may then be lit as a sign of belonging to Christ, who is the Light of the World.

What is involved?

The Baptism service outline

The Baptism service includes the following:

The Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose from the dead;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
from there he will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith:
we believe in one God:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Responses

Do you turn to Christ?
Do you repent of your sins?
Do you renounce Satan and all evil?

**I turn to Christ.
I repent of my sins.
I renounce all that is evil.**

Will you strive to live as a disciple of Christ,
loving God with your whole heart,
and your neighbour as yourself,
until your life's end?

I will, with God's help.

The service...

Baptism

Name, I baptise you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Name, I sign you
with the sign of the cross
to show that you are marked
as Christ's own for ever.

Prayers

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**

Blessing and Welcome

Name, Live as a disciple of Christ: fight the good fight,
finish the race, keep the faith.

**Confess Christ crucified,
proclaim his resurrection,
look for his coming in glory.**

Name, God has brought you out of darkness into his marvellous light.

**Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.**

Name, God has called you into his Church.

**We therefore receive and welcome you
as a member with us of the body of Christ,
as a child of the one heavenly Father,
and as an inheritor of the kingdom of God.**

Putting your faith into practice

As your child begins life on this earth as one of Christ's own, they need you as parents to raise them in this faith.

As you begin this calling, here are some ideas and suggestions.

- Remember that your child's life of faith is not just yours to shape: It is the work of God. You are called to be a loving and forgiving presence as the Holy Spirit works in your child to bring forth the "fruits of the Spirit" [Galatians 5:22-23].
- Tell the story! Read the story of Jesus and other Bible stories. Through the stories, help your child to know Jesus as a friend.
- Set an example: Love as God loves – unconditionally! Let your child know in every possible way that worth and identity are gifts of God, because we are made in His image.
- Remember you are not alone. You have your child's godparents, members of the church, the Bible, and most of all, the presence of Christ, who will "never leave you or forsake you."
- You can celebrate your child's baptism anniversary. Light the baptism candle and share memories, prayers and the scripture.
- You can teach faith in daily events. Make the sign of the cross on the forehead of your child during a bath or as you say prayers at night. When you wrap your child in a towel, speak of being 'wrapped in Jesus' love'. When your child is sick, pray and make the sign of the cross on your child's forehead.
- Worship with your child. Bring your child to join in worship and maybe go to Sunday school or other opportunities.
- Practice acts of Christian love together as a family – visit the elderly, help with feeding programs or care for the earth.
- Remember to thank God daily for all of God's gifts – the gift of creation; the wonder of forgiveness and new life in Christ; the presence and power of the Holy Spirit and the precious gift of your child.

"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them; for to such as these belongs the Kingdom of God." [Mark 10: 13-16]

Godparents and Sponsors

Choosing your child's godparents or sponsors is an important decision. Try to choose people who will nurture your child's faith and encourage them as they grow up. Your child's godparents will speak on behalf of your child at the baptism service and promise in front of God and the congregation to support and encourage the child as a member of God's family.

To godparents and sponsors

What a wonderful privilege and honour to be chosen as a godparent or sponsor! Godparents are a sign that God's family is wider than the family we were born into. You are obviously a special, caring Christian person who will take a warm and personal interest in your godchild.

In the service of baptism, parents and godparents promise to give their child/godchild the help and encouragement needed to grow in the Christian life. Godparents and parents express their own trust and commitment to the promises of God and their intention to bring up their children in the faith and practice of the church.

Godparents are asked to accept the responsibilities placed upon them in bringing the child for baptism, to answer on behalf of the child and to encourage the child in the life and faith of the Christian community by their own prayers and example.

On the day of the baptism, you might like to help celebrate with a party or give a present such as a children's translation of the Bible or a child's book of prayers.

After the baptism

Pray daily for your godchild and their families

Set an example of a life trusting God

Go to **church** with them

Encourage them on their journey of faith

Suggest different ways they can become involved in their spiritual growth

Read the Bible to them or with them

Say Grace with them when sharing a meal

Encourage them to affirm their faith publicly

when they become old enough to do so for themselves

Frequently Asked Questions

What do I have to do to be baptised or to have my child baptised?

Baptism is about the good news that God has done everything for you. Our church will not charge you any money, as God's love for us is free. If you become a member of our church, you may decide to become regular in your giving to assist in the running of the church.

Can I arrange a baptism for my child at any time or place?

Baptism is more than a private celebration, it is about a new birth or rebirth in Jesus Christ. You are becoming a member of a new family, the household of God. The baptism will take place during the ordinary Sunday service of your local church (St Andrew's, St John's or Holy Spirit Watsonia). However, in emergencies baptisms can take place outside of the church, such as in hospital.

Is 'christening' the same as 'baptism'?

Yes, christening and baptism are the same. If you have been 'christened', then you have been 'baptised'. Baptism in the Anglican church is accepted by other mainline churches. You are baptised into the Christian faith, not a particular denomination.

Do I have to come to church every Sunday?

There are no rules about attendance at church, but we want you to discover the joy of being part of God's family. We'll ask you to attend a baptism class led by members of the church which will cover the meaning of baptism, the promises you will make for yourself or your child on the day and the service itself will be explained. We hope you'll see church attendance as a way of keeping the baptism promises you make for your child.

What happens in the service of baptism?

You or your child's sponsors (godparents) make promises before God. You are given the support of God's people in the church. Baptism involves a ceremony where the minister will pour water on you or your child's head, you are signed with the cross in the "name of the God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit".

Do both parents have to be baptised?

At least one parent must be baptised. It is difficult to see how parents can make the promises for their children if they don't have a faith themselves. You and your child can both be baptised at the service if you are not baptised, but would like to be.

How do I choose godparents or sponsors for my child?

You can choose between two and four people, preferably at least one who is the same gender as the child. The sponsors should be baptised members of a church and have a genuine faith in God themselves. The promises that sponsors make on behalf of their godchild should not be taken lightly.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is there any difference between the baptism of adults and children?

The same words are used for both services, however adults are able to make the promises for themselves (although it is still good to have a sponsor to support you). As an adult, you can choose between a “sprinkling” and full immersion. Children are baptised on the understanding that they will grow up into faith with the help of parents and godparents or sponsors. When they reach adulthood and decide to take the faith on for themselves, they can confirm their baptism promises at a confirmation service with the bishop.

Does it matter what church I come to for baptism?

You are always welcome to join us at one of the three parish centres. A lot of people have had an association with one of our churches and want to return. If you’re already attending a church, you will need to inform them that you’ve decided to have your child’s baptism at our church. Sometimes we may suggest that you follow up your journey of faith with your own church.

I’m not ready to make promises involved just yet. What else can I do?

That’s okay, it’s better to be honest. If you want to celebrate the birth of your child before God, we can provide a special *Thanksgiving for a Child* service which we can tailor in order to fit your situation. Talk to the minister or come to church to see what you think. We will support and pray for you as you consider these matters.