



ST MARK'S

ANGLICAN CHURCH DARLING POINT

Baptisms information



We love celebrating baptisms!

If you're reading this, it's likely because you're considering having your child baptised. At St Mark's, we perform many baptisms each year. Our goal is to help you appreciate the profound significance of baptism and to support you in confidently embracing the promises made.

WHY DO YOU WANT YOUR CHILD TO BE BAPTISED?

We want families to be baptising their children for the right reasons. The primary reason you should want your child/children to be baptised is because you are a Christian and intend to raise your child/children in the faith.

Children are a gift from God, and he entrusts parents with the privilege and responsibility of nurturing them in his way. God wants our children to experience a loving home, to gain wisdom, to live generously for the good of all, to grow in faith, and to come at last to share in his eternal kingdom.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."
(Matthew 19:14)

WHO CAN BE BAPTISED?

Anyone who is in Christ can claim this symbol as their own. You don't need to be an Anglican or have an extensive knowledge of the Bible. If Jesus is your Lord and Saviour, all the blessings that baptism represents are yours. However, the minister must ensure that either the person being baptised (if they can answer for themselves) or their godparents (if it's an infant) have been properly instructed and prepared in the Christian faith.

The rest of this document will go through what is at the heart of Christian faith and the significance of baptism so that you are able to confidently make the promises and professions in baptism on behalf of your child/children.

WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

A Christian is a person who has put their faith and trust in the person and work of Jesus Christ, including His death on the cross in our place and his resurrection from the dead on the third day to offer us forgiveness for sins and eternal life.

UNDERSTANDING CHRISTIANITY

1. Good news: Creation

The good news of the Bible is that God everything, including us. He made us in his image, precious and dear in his sight. We were made to be in a relationship with God.

So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. (Genesis 1:27)

2. Bad news: Sin

God made us and how do we respond as a human race?

The bad news is that we ignore God in the world that he has made. We oppose God. We refuse to listen to God. We forget we depend on God. We ignore him.

This attitude toward God is described as sin, and the Bible describes people who sin as sinners.

No one escapes this description. Because of our sin (rejection of God), we are enemies of God and we all deserve his judgement.

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23)

3. Great news: Jesus saves us

The great news is that God provided a way to restore the relationship in Jesus!

Jesus willingly suffered and died in our place on the cross for our sin. He did this out of love for us. Jesus took on himself the punishment we deserve and we get all his perfection.

Jesus' resurrection showed his power over death and that he paid the penalty for our sin.

Jesus saves us by his death and resurrection. All who put their trust in Jesus have peace, forgiveness and life with God. They are freed from guilt and shame to live in a restored relationship with God.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16)

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Baptism is a sign given to us by Jesus¹ to represent something we can't see (our spiritual union with him) using something we can see (water). As a wedding ring represents a marriage bond, so baptism represents to us the amazing things God has done for us by uniting us with Christ.

1. United with Jesus in his death and resurrection

The water represents death and new life.

- Death to our old self and the life of sin.
- New life includes all God's covenant blessings of forgiveness, the Spirit and inclusion in his church, as well as final resurrection from the dead

¹ "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." Matthew 28:19-20a.

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. (Romans 6:3-4)

2. Salvation and the forgiveness of our sins

The water in baptism points to our salvation and the cleansing from sin that only Jesus' death and resurrection makes possible.

"...this water symbolises baptism that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience towards God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ..." (1 Peter 3:21)

Baptism is not just a professing our faith, but of what God does, through uniting us with Christ, especially in his death and resurrection.

The water ritual itself isn't magical. Just as placing a ring on your finger doesn't make you married, being splashed with water doesn't make you a Christian. Likewise, being unbaptized doesn't negate your union with Christ any more than losing a wedding ring ends a marriage. However, if you are a Christian, baptism is an important step you should take.

IN BAPTISM, WHAT ARE YOU DECLARING AND PROMISING (ON BEHALF OF YOUR CHILD?)

1. Trust in God
2. Repentance of Sins
3. Turning to Christ

Are these things you can confidently declare?

WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY GOING FORWARD AS PARENTS AND GODPARENTS?

1. Word of God: Read and teach you child/children from the Bible
2. Prayers: A simple structure for prayers can be: Thank you, Sorry, Please
3. Example: Model a living faith in Jesus Christ
4. Church Community: Regular attendance at your local church

Will you be able to faithfully fulfil your responsibilities?

GODPARENTS

Children being baptised must have at least one godparent. Ideally, there will be three godparents: at least two of the same sex as the child and at least one of the opposite sex.

Either or both parents may serve as godparents.

Godparents should be baptised individuals who will faithfully fulfill their responsibilities by providing spiritual nurture and instruction to the child, as well as setting an example through their own godly living.

BOOKING

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a baptism, please contact us at: baptisms@stmarksdp.org.

While there is no fee for the baptism, families are invited to make a donation to the church in the following ways:

Cash

In an envelope and placed in the offertory boxes in the foyer

Credit Card

Please see website for details: <https://stmarksdp.org/giving/>

Internet Banking

Account Name: St Mark's Church Darling Point

BSB: 032 054

Account Number: 250036

Ref: Baptisms (Surname)

Cheque

Payable to St Mark's Church Darling Point

Post: 1 Greenoaks Avenue, Darling Point 2027