

Baptism at Christ Church Cathedral Newcastle

How the Church Understands Baptism

Baptism marks a significant moment, both in the life of the child or adult candidate, and in the life of the church community, family and friends. Baptism celebrates a new beginning as a member of Christ's body, the Church. Baptism immerses us in the new life given to us through the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. When we come for baptism we are saying "yes" to God's love and desire for us to belong to the community of God's people.

Who is involved?

Parents bear the main responsibility for a child's well-being. In the baptism service you will be asked whether you are willing to accept the responsibilities of Christian parenthood. You will be asked to make a commitment of faith in Jesus Christ.

Godparents have an important function, and should be chosen with care. They are to help with the Christian upbringing of their godchild. They should understand and accept the responsibilities they undertake. Godparents or sponsors do not need to be Anglicans, but they must be baptised themselves, and they should be practising Christians who are, ideally, worshipping members of a church.

The Church is the community of faith to which the baptised belong. This community helps parents and godparents with the responsibilities of raising their children as active members of the church and nurtures all candidates by prayer and fellowship as they grow in their faith.

Preparation In baptismal preparation we seek to explore our faith and to understand the promises being made at baptism. Baptismal preparation is arranged before the date of each baptism through an appointment with one of the parish clergy. If you wish to proceed with the Baptism, arrangements will be made for preparation and a walk through of the Order of Service.

The Baptism Service

At the Cathedral, baptisms are usually celebrated during the Eucharist. This can be at the 9.30am Sunday Eucharist or at the more informal Family Service on the third Sunday of the month at 11.30am (February to December).

There is no set fee for baptism; however, we ask you to make a thank-offering for the work of the Cathedral. An envelope is provided and this can be placed in the offertory bowl at the baptismal service.

If you would like to discuss baptism further, or to arrange for a baptism, please contact the Dean's Office by telephone 4929 2052 or by email

dean@newcastlecathedral.org.au. An application form for Baptismal enquiries is available on our website www.newcastlecathedral.org.au