

BAPTISMS AT ST MICHAEL'S



WELCOME

We are pleased that you have chosen St Michael's for the baptism of your child. We hope it will be an enjoyable and memorable occasion for you.

There are some matters that you need to know in advance of the event:

- Baptisms usually occur on the second Sunday of every month (subject to change), during the morning service. Sunday service begins at 10.00am. Baptisms occur at the start of the service. The whole service takes an hour and a half.
- The Church service has several stages. It proceeds with a planned focus. **Our tradition and custom is that people stay for the whole service.**
- The exception is that when the Baptism is over, we ask that all children present will then go to the Children's Program in St Michael's Place. Both the crèche (for infants) and the program for children are looked after by qualified professional people. They will be escorted to the Building.
- Photographs in the Church at the times of the Baptism are welcome. Thereafter we observe formality until the end of the Service.

WHAT TIME DO WE NEED TO BE THERE?

1. You need to gather in the Waratah Room on the 1st floor of the St Michael's Place behind the Church **no later than 9.45am**. A member of the Church Council will be there to meet you.
2. The Minister will come to the Waratah Room at 9.50am. He will welcome you and give you further details of the ceremony.
3. We wish to emphasise the time deadline. We appreciate the difficulties of getting the family together and organized, however 9.45am must be our deadline, as the Service begins at 10.00am.

Please plan early to arrange car parking and remind family and friends that parking may take time. Please let all your relatives know that they need to be seated in the Church by 9.50am. The best place to park is Interpark (120 Little Collins Street) or at the Grand Hyatt car park. It is \$5.00 with a stamped ticket which your ticket can be stamped at the enquiry table in the hall in St Michael's Place.

CAN WE HAVE GODPARENTS?

It is your choice whether or not you have godparents. If you do, please ask them to accompany you to the Waratah room where they can be introduced to the Minister and given further details of the ceremony.

WHERE DO RELATIVES AND FRIENDS SIT?

Please tell your relatives and friends who are coming to the Church for the baptism that there are reserved seats at the **front of the Church in the second and third rows**. Please let all your friends and relatives that is an expected courtesy to be present for the whole service.

THE BAPTISM

- a) When the time for the baptism comes, the Minister will ask the parents to stand to signify their acceptance of the Christian Faith into which they wish their children to be baptised.
- b) After the parents have stood, the godparents will be asked to stand to signify their support and care for you and your child.
- c) The parents will be called forward to the baptismal font for the baptism. The father will hold your child, and the Godparents will walk forward to stand at the base of the font while the baptism takes place. Each couple will come forward with their child in turn.
- d) The Minister will ask the father the name of your child. He will then take the child and baptise him/her. He will give the blessing and pass the child to the mother.
- e) There may be a short pause for photographs to be taken. Please tell the Minister if you wish for this to happen.
- f) The parents and godparents will then return to their place.
- g) When the last hymn is over, the Organist will play the Organ Postlude. Many people remain to hear the music. But if you wish to leave as soon as the last hymn is concluded, please do so quietly as others are wanting to hear the music.

h) At the end of the Service, the congregation goes to St Michael's Place for tea and coffee. You will be welcome to join. However, we appreciate that you may want to get away to your family celebration.

DO WE RECEIVE A CERTIFICATE?

An attendant, usually from the Church Youth Group, will give you a Certificate to signify this special day. Please check with the Minister after service if you have not received it.

THE WEEK PRECEDING THE BAPTISMAL SERVICE

Usually a few days prior to the Sunday of the Baptism, a member of the Church Council will phone to run through the baptism and ask how many people will be attending.

If you have not heard from someone by the Friday before the baptism, contact the Church office, to make sure everything is in order.

PEOPLE ASK:

IS THERE A FEE FOR THIS SERVICE?

Parents of the child are invited to celebrate the occasion by making a donation to the church. The usual donation is \$100. Family and friends are also able to celebrate the occasion by a donation usually \$20, \$50, \$100. Cheques are accepted. These donations and cheques can be placed in the offering plate as it is passed during the service.

YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

At this special time of baptism, we are pleased to welcome your family and friends. We would like them to feel comfortable when they come. We appreciate that some may come from a completely different culture, and others may have little or no interest in religion or the Church. They are all welcome.

FLOWER DONATION

In celebration of your child's baptism you are welcome to donate flowers for this special day. The cost is \$150 for one bunch or \$250 for two bunches and a notice can be inserted into the Order of Service. Due to the popularity of this opportunity, it is advisable to contact the office in advance to secure your spot. Please speak to the office staff for further details.

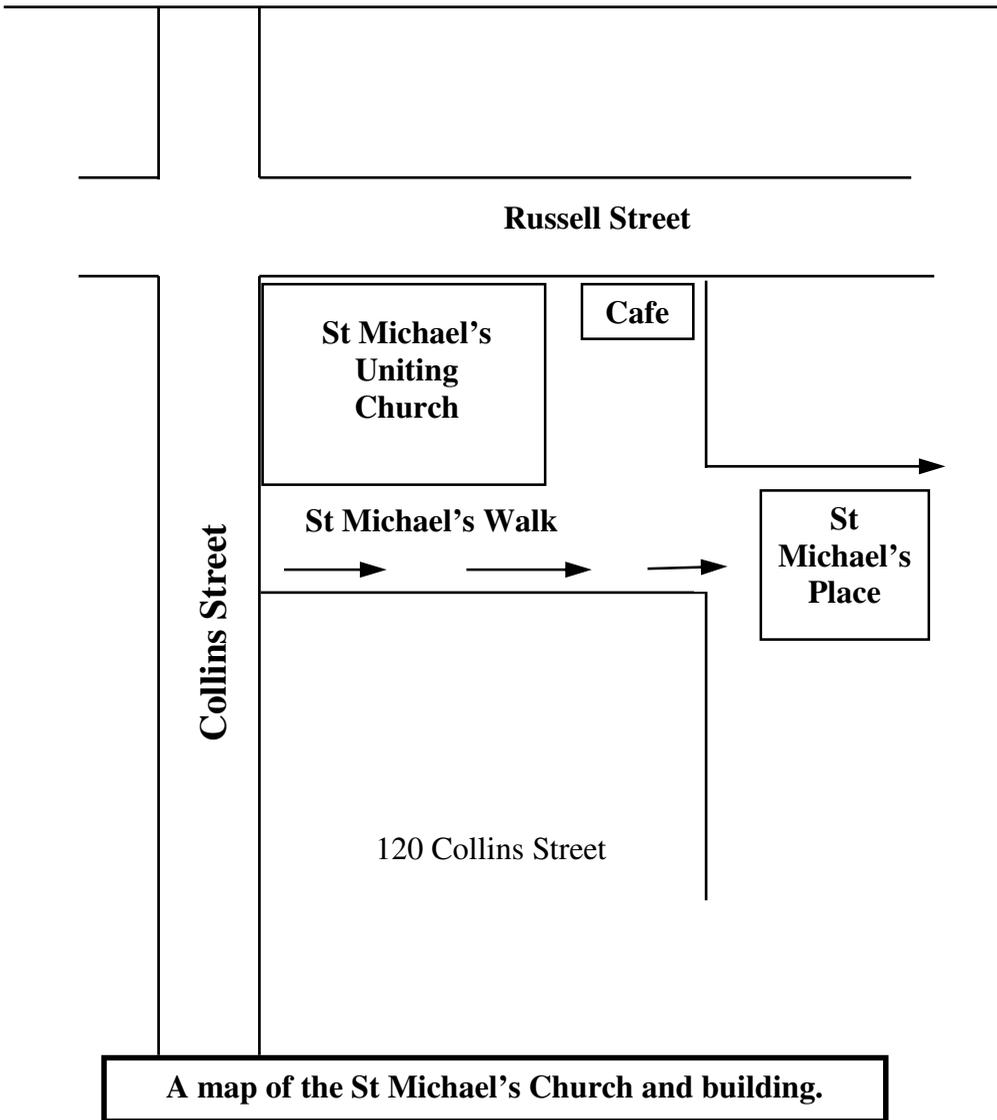
FURTHER QUESTIONS

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us before the Sunday of the Service. The Church office is open Monday to Friday, 9.00am to 5.00pm.

Telephone: 9654 5120 or email: office@stmichaels.org.au

FURTHER CONTACT

We hope that you will value the contact you have made with St Michael's on the occasion of your child's baptism. We offer a range of programs and activities, and encourage you to join them whenever you wish.



Any information you supply to St Michael's is protected by our Privacy Policy.
If you would prefer not to receive any further communication from us,
please contact the office.

ST MICHAEL'S

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