



*We recall that in the early church, friends and followers of Jesus shared his message of unconditional love; baptising people into the family of God.*

*“Whoever made a place for this message in their hearts received baptism, and devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to sharing community together, to the breaking of bread and prayers.”*

*Acts 2:42*

ST MICHAEL'S UNITING CHURCH 

# WELCOME

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

*The Sacrament of Baptism is a special occasion for you and your family and for St Michael's as a Christian community of love and justice.*

*Through the ritual of Baptism we connect with Christians around the world and throughout time. We bring to mind Jesus, whose life was deeply touched by the Spirit. We see the Divine Spirit in all people.*

*Baptism symbolises the church's welcome for your child. Baptism is not about opening the door to the church or to God. God's love is already present. Baptism is the church's way of celebrating and naming the grace of God living in every one of God's children. It is the way we welcome new members into the life of the universal community of faith.*

There is some information that you need to know in advance of the service:

- 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 between hour and an hour and a half.
- The Church service has several stages. Our tradition is that people stay for the whole service.
- When the Baptism is over, families are very welcome to stay in church for as long as they would like. There is a family room on level one of the Church Hall which parents may use if they need to take children out. The St Michael's Baptism liaison person, who will sit near you during the service, will assist with access.
- You are welcome to take photographs in the Church at the time of the Baptism, but we ask you to refrain from photography during the other parts of the service. until the end of the service.

## **WHAT TIME DO WE NEED TO BE THERE?**

You need to gather in the Waratah Room on the 1st floor of St Michael's Place behind the Church no later than 9.45am.

A member of the Church Council will be there to meet you.

The Minister will come to the Waratah Room at 9.50am. She will welcome you and give you further details of the service.

We wish to emphasise the time deadline. We appreciate the difficulties of getting family and friends together and organised, however 9.45am is a firm deadline, and you need to be seated before the service begins at 10.00am.

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

## **WHERE DO FAMILY AND FRIENDS SIT?**

Please tell your family 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 them all know that is an expected courtesy to be present for the whole service.

## **THE BAPTISM**

When the time for the Baptism comes, the Minister will invite parents and children (siblings are welcome) to come to the font.

Godparents are welcome and will be included in the Baptism service.

The Minister will ask the parents the name of the child. She will then baptise the child and offer a blessing.

Parents will be asked to make a commitment to share the Christian faith with their child.

A certificate will be presented, along with a candle and a Bible story book.

During the Baptism hymn the minister may carry the child into the congregation, if the parents (and the child!) are willing.

The family will then return to their seats.

When the last hymn is over, the organist will play the Postlude. Many people remain to hear the music. 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.

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 understand if you need to get away to a family celebration.

## THE WEEK PRECEDING THE SERVICE

The week prior to the Sunday of the Baptism, a member of St Michael's will contact you to discuss the proceedings and ask how many people will be attending.

The week of the Baptism the Minister will be in touch and will send you an outline of the Order of Baptism.

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

## IS THERE A FEE FOR THIS SERVICE?

There is no fee for Baptism which is a sacrament of the Church. Many families wish to make a donation to the church to celebrate the Baptism, but it is entirely voluntary. Family and friends are also able to make a donation which can be placed in the offering plate as it is passed during the service. Cheques are accepted. To make a credit card donation, please contact the church office.

## **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 included in 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.

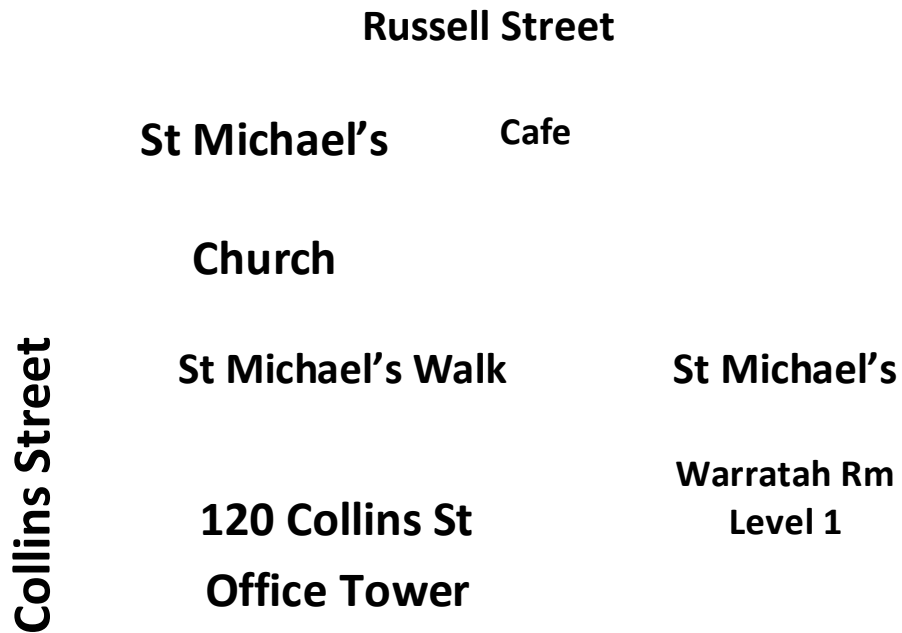
## **FURTHER QUESTIONS**

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](mailto:office@stmichaels.org.au)

## **FURTHER CONTACT**

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

# FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND



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.