



After his death, 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

WELCOME

We are pleased that you have chosen St Michael's Uniting Church for the Baptism of your child. We hope it will be a meaningful 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 join with Christians around the world and throughout time. Baptism is the church's way of celebrating and naming the grace of Divine Presence in every one of God's children. We remember Jesus, whose life was deeply touched by the Spirit, the one in whom Christians believe that God was especially present. We see the Divine Spirit in all people and respect other spiritual paths.

Baptism symbolises the church's welcome for your child as a member of the Church. In baptism, we welcome new members into the life of the universal Christian faith and into the community of St Michael's. At the baptism, parents promise to ensure that their child is brought up with knowledge and experience of Christian faith.

BAPTISM AT ST MICHAEL'S

At St Michael's baptisms are usually celebrated on the second Sunday of the month (subject to change), during the morning service.

The service begins at 10.00am.

On occasion, there may be more than one child being baptised.

MEETING WITH THE MINISTER

After a baptism request has been made, a meeting with the minister will be arranged. This can either be in person at St Michael's offices or via video call. Meeting with the minister is required before the baptism can be confirmed.

THE WEEK BEFORE THE SERVICE

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

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

ON THE DAY OF THE BAPTISM

The Baptism Assistant will meet you at the St Michael's Walk entrance to the church. Please arrive at no later than 9.40 am.

The Minister will welcome you in the church and give you further details of the service.

We appreciate the challenges of getting family and friends together, however 9:40 am is a firm deadline. Arriving early will also help your child feel comfortable in the church environment.

THE BAPTISM SERVICE

The Church service has several stages. Baptism occurs in the first section of the service, following the welcome, a hymn, and prayers. Our tradition is that people stay for the whole service (usually a little over an hour).

When the time for the Baptism comes, the Minister explains the tradition of baptism and the congregation affirms the Christian faith into which the child will be baptised.

The minister will invite parents and children (siblings are welcome) to come to the font, along with Godparents (optional).

The minister baptises the child and a blessing is sung.

Parent(s) will then be asked to make a commitment to share the Christian faith with their child in response to these questions:

Will you tell your child the stories of Jesus, teach the values of the Christian life, and give him/her opportunities to experience Christian worship?

I will.

Will you help your child discover all that God may be in his/her life?

I will.

Will you commit yourselves to raising your child in a way that inspires compassion, justice-seeking and spiritual growth?

I will.

You will receive an ecumenical baptism certificate along with a Bible story book to share with your child.

During the singing of the hymn following the baptism, family members return to their seats. The service then continues with readings, sermon, musical reflections, prayers and hymns.

After the final hymn and blessing, the organist will play a Postlude. Most people in the congregation remain to hear the music. If you wish to leave after the blessing, please do so quietly so others can enjoy the music.

At the end of the service, the congregation gathers in St Michael's Hall for morning tea. You are welcome to join. However, we understand if you need to get away to a family celebration.

GODPARENTS

You are welcome to choose one or two godparents for your child, but this is not a requirement. The godparents will stand with you during the baptism. In recognition of the commitment they are making, they will be asked to respond to two questions.

Please check that the godparents you have chosen are willing to make these promises.

Will you commit yourself to being a guide and support to Name on his/her spiritual journey, wherever that may take her/him?

I will.

Will you be available to Name as he/she grows, sharing in her/his nurture and encouraging him/her in life?

I will.

BAPTISM CANDLE

St Michael's provides a small, white baptism candle which is lit during the service. However, you are welcome to bring an individualised baptism candle. Please let us know in advance if you wish to do this. Give the candle to the minister when you meet with her on the day of the baptism.

VIDEO RECORDING

Our Sunday services are video recorded. After the service the video is edited before being uploaded to our website. The Baptism will not be included in the online service.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

There will be reserved seats for family and friends at the front of the Church in the second and third rows. We appreciate that some of your family and friends may come from different religious traditions or have little knowledge about Christian baptism. Please let them know that everyone is very welcome at St Michael's.

Please ask family and friends to be present for the whole service.

If your child, or children of family and friends, become distressed and need to be taken out during the service, parents are welcome to use the Family Room. The St Michael's Baptism Assistant, who will sit near you during the service, will accompany anyone who needs to go to the Family Room. Access is via the steps (or DDA lift) at the corner of Little Collins and Russell Streets.

COVID SAFE

QR codes and proof of vaccination are not required. Masks are not required but encouraged whilst singing hymns. Please let your family and friends know about this. Masks are available at church but is easier if people bring their own.

PARKING

Please plan to arrive early to arrange car parking and remind family and friends that parking may take time.

If you park at the Grand Hyatt Car Park (entrance on Russell Street) the Baptism Assistant will give you a voucher that reduces the cost to \$7. Friends and family can also pick up vouchers from the Welcomers.

PHOTOGRAPHY

You are welcome to take photographs in the Church before and after the service and at the time of the Baptism, but we ask you to refrain from photography during other parts of the service.

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 arrangement or \$250 for two arrangements. Please speak to the office staff for further details. This is entirely optional.

DONATIONS

There is no fee for Baptism which is a sacrament of the Church. Families may wish to make a donation to the church to celebrate the Baptism, but it is voluntary. Family and friends are also able to make a donation which can be placed in one of the offering boxes near the church doors. There are two Pay Point machines in the church. Information about electronic donations can be found on our website or by contacting the Church Office.

QUESTIONS

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us. The Church office phone is staffed Monday to Friday, 9:30am to 5:00pm.

Telephone: 03 9654 5120

Email: reception@stmichaels.org.au

FURTHER CONTACT

We hope that you will value the contact you have made with St Michael's on this occasion and continue to offer opportunities for your child to participate in a church community.

St Michael's does not currently have a children's program, but children are always welcome at worship. We also offer a range of programs and activities and encourage you to join them whenever you wish.

FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND

