



*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.

In the Uniting Church, baptism takes place during a Sunday service. In baptism we are reminded that God has given us all the gift of life, and that through the life and teaching of Jesus of Nazareth we know God's intent for human living. We remember Jesus, the Human One, in whom Christians believe that God was especially present.

Baptism is also the church's way of celebrating and naming the grace of Divine Presence in every one of God's children. We are assured that everyone is held in the eternal love of God.

In the symbolic act of baptism, your child is welcomed 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 PROMISES

Baptism of a child involves a solemn commitment on the part of a parent or parents to raise their child within the Christian faith. Parents promise to teach their child about the values and traditions of Christian faith, and to provide experiences of Christian worship and community as their child grows.

Baptism is not a requirement for God's blessing of a child or adult. We believe that God loves and accepts every person, and that nothing can separate us from that sacred love. If making the commitment to bring your child up within the Christian faith is not something with which you are comfortable, we can discuss thanksgiving and blessing as an alternative.

## 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.

## BAPTISM ENQUIRY FORM

Please complete the enquiry form which is on the website or it can be emailed to you.

## MEETING WITH THE MINISTER

Prior to meeting with the minister, please complete an enquiry form and email it to the Church Office. It can be downloaded from the website or emailed to you.

After a baptism enquiry has been received, 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.

## FOLLOWING THE MEETING

Once the baptism is confirmed, we will ask you to provide names of any godparents, and whether you would like St Michaels to provide a candle.

St Michael's provides a small, white baptism candle which is lit during the service and given to you after the service. However, you are welcome to bring an individualised baptism candle. Please let us know in advance if you wish to do this.

## 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.

## PROMISES

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

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

***I will.***

*Will you help your child discover all that God may be in their life?*

***I will.***

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

***I will.***

## GODPARENTS PROMISES

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.***

## THE SERVICE CONTINUES

Following the promises, you will receive an ecumenical baptism certificate along with a Bible story book to share with your child.

Family members return to their seats and the service continues with readings, sermon, musical reflections, prayers and hymns.

## THE SERVICE CONCLUDES

After the final hymn and blessing, the organist will play a Postlude. Most people in the congregation remain seated 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 your family has other plans after the service.

## 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, you are welcome to use the child-friendly space in the narthex (the corridor on the Collins Street side of the church). A small number of toys and books are available. The St Michael's Baptism Assistant, who will sit near you during the service, can accompany anyone who needs to use this space.

## COVID SAFE

Masks are not required but are 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: [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 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

Access to St Michael's church and offices has changed due to the 120 Collins renovation project.

### ***Accessing the St Michael's Offices - Monday to Friday***

The St Michael's office is not attached to the church. It is situated at the back of the 120 Collins site. There are two access points:

1. Entry from the Little Collins Street/Russell Street corner via the lifts to the Ground Floor, then via the tunnel through the glass doors. There is a lift to the left of the steps.
2. Entry through the 120 Collins Street building from Little Collins Street, up the stairs, then via the tunnel.

### ***Accessing the church***

Access to the church is available via St Michael's Walk, Collins Street and Russell Street doors.

The St Michael's office and halls cannot be accessed from the church via St Michael's Walk.

*Access and traffic flow is indicated with green arrows on the wayfinding map below.*

