

So you want to know about

BAPTISM?



Baptism welcomes and connects us to the family of
God,
a world-wide community of disciples of all ages and
races.

**St John's Anglican Church
Coffs Harbour**

Revised August 2011

Baptism at St John's

What is baptism?

Baptism is a visible symbol of God's inclusive love. Therefore, it is God's pleasure and kindness that is being expressed in the sacrament of Baptism, as by the generous pouring of water, we are reminded that we are similarly cherished and valued as God's own. Baptism then, is symbolic of renewed and hopeful life, in that water restores, cleanses and nourishes.

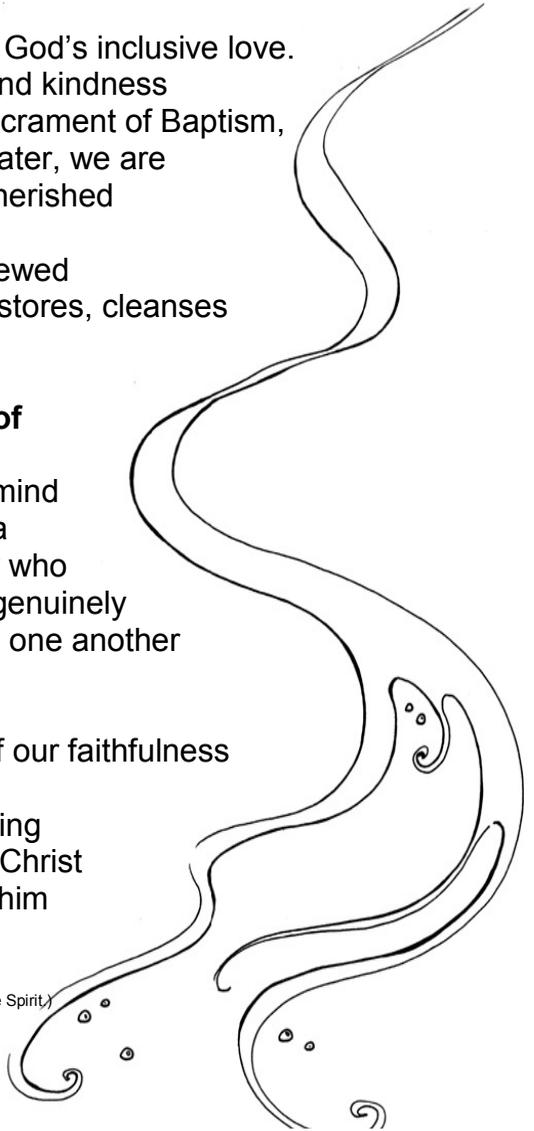
Baptism is also a celebration of belonging...

belonging in the very heart and mind of God, yet also participating in a community of faith, a community who through their regular gathering, genuinely seeks to care for and encourage one another along the Christian pathway.

Finally, baptism is a clear sign of our faithfulness to the way of Jesus Christ.

As such, this sacrament is a lasting reminder that by being joined to Christ by the Spirit, we are at one with him in a just, compassionate and reconciled world.

(Rev. Sean Gilbert, Christ Church, Wayville. SA—Seasons of the Spirit.)



The community of St John's Anglican Church in Coffs Harbour look forward to journeying with you.

The answer to any request for Baptism is YES.

Child Baptism: What are your expectations?

People bring their children for baptism for many reasons; because they themselves were baptised, they want an opportunity to thank God for the gift of a child and to celebrate with family and friends this special time.

Baptism is much more than a 'naming' service and as such it is important that we spend time exploring what Baptism is, and what it will mean for us, as individuals, parents, sponsors and family.

What are our expectations?

As Baptism is an opportunity to welcome your child into the family of God, we would invite you to spend some time getting to know us by joining us in worship. We have a number of different services and times to choose from:

Saturday— 6pm

Sunday—7 and 9am

Children's Church is available at the 9am service

Baptisms are mostly held as a part of the 9am Service, however alternate arrangements can be made. Please discuss this the Parish Priest.

What are you promising?

Firstly as parents and sponsors you agree to encourage the child brought for baptism in the life and faith of the Christian community. Before bringing the child and agreeing to this, it may be important to consider *how* you will carry this out.

Please turn over

In Baptism parents and sponsors will be called upon to make promises on behalf of the child. In the service you will be asked to answer the following questions:

Do you turn to Christ?

Do you repent of your sins?

Do you reject selfish living and all that is false and unjust?

Do you renounce Satan and all evil?

These are significant questions and you may need to spend some time thinking about them. There will be opportunity to discuss this during a Baptismal visit which will occur before the Baptism.

Adult Baptism

Baptism for adults is also available and encouraged. It incorporates confirmation by the Bishop.

To discuss this further please contact the Parish Priest.

What next?

'Please fill out 'Request for Baptism' form and return it to your Baptismal Team member or to the Parish Office as soon as possible.

To Contact Us

If you have any concerns or questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at the Parish Office (Mon—Fri 9am—1pm)

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