

INFANT BAPTISM is for the children of Christian parents. We understand "Christian" to mean that there is a definite commitment to Jesus as Lord.

"Children are Baptised on the understanding that they will be brought up as faithful members ... and take their place in the life of the Church.

This child depends chiefly on you for the help and encouragement he or she needs."

(Australian Prayer Book, P. 518)

PLEASE ASK YOURSELF, HONESTLY

"Are you willing to give this help and encouragement by every means in your power?"

(Australian Prayer Book, P. 518)

PARENTS

From the moment of conception you have shared responsibility for the growth of your child.

At the time of birth, this responsibility developed in a new way:

At Baptism, your care grows still more, to take on the responsibility of your child's spiritual, eternal life. Sharing and developing this life in partnership with God through His Church, is wonderful and exciting step, for you, your child, and the Godparents.

For Baptism to make sense and to be an honest event in your child's life, at least one parent should be able to say "YES" to the questions which are part of the service:-

- DO YOU TURN TO CHRIST?**
- DO YOU REPENT OF YOUR SINS?**
- DO YOU RENOUNCE (refuse to be led by) EVIL?**

TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDING and perhaps disappointment you should be aware that, as a community, the Church has always had certain standards. The basic standards for Holy Baptism are as follows, and are binding on clergy and people alike.

OF PARENTS: There will always be a time of preparation for both the parents and Godparents, before the Baptism can take place. This ensures that all are fully aware of what it means to be a Christian and the responsibilities that are involved. It also allows a decision not to go ahead to be made by the parents if they do not want to accept the implications of being a Christian.

OF GODPARENTS: A boy should have two Godfathers and one Godmother; and a girl, two Godmothers and one Godfather. Parents may be Godparents for their own children.

The Godparents shall be persons who will faithfully fulfil their responsibilities both by their care for the children committed to their charge, and by the example of their own Christian living.

No person shall be a Godparent who has not been baptized and confirmed.

OF BAPTISM: If you wish your child to be baptized in a parish other than that in which you live, you must be prepared to show that the baptism has the goodwill of the priest of the parish in which you live.

HOLY BAPTISM IS A SACRAMENT: Your Parish Priest will explain what this means.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM: Will take place within a public service of the Church on Sundays, to enable it to be recognized as the entry into the Family of God, and so that the family of the parish may welcome the child into the fellowship of the Church.

I undertake, by God's help, to provide that this child shall be instructed in the Christian Faith as preserved in the Anglican Church, and to help him/her, by every means in my power, to take his/her place in the life of the Church.

Signed(Parent or Guardian)

WE ARE GLAD THAT YOU WISH YOUR CHILD TO BE A MEMBER OF CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU INTO THE FAMILY LIFE OF OUR PARISH SUNDAY BY SUNDAY.

APPLICATION FOR HOLY BAPTISM

I hereby ask for Holy Baptism for:-

Christian Name(s)

Surname of Child

Date of Birth

Father's Name

Mother's Name

Father's Occupation

Address

.....Telephone

GODPARENTS

Christian and Surname Address

1

2

3

Proposed Date of Baptism

Time

Signature (Parent or Guardian)

Detach and return this form to the Parish Priest.

Read and discuss with your family and your Parish Priest, the notes on the remainder of this leaflet.

THE DIOCESE OF BUNBURY

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



HOLY BAPTISM

JESUS SAID:

*“Truly, truly I say to you,
unless one is born anew,
he cannot see the Kingdom of God.*

*Unless one is born of Water and
the Spirit, he cannot enter the
Kingdom of God.”*

John 3:3 and 5. (NRSV)