



ANGLICAN CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA

DIOCESE OF NORTH QUEENSLAND

St James' Cathedral, Townsville

36 Cleveland Terrace
PO Box 108
Townsville QLD 4810

Ph: +61 432 833 451
email: stjamescathedral@hotmail.com
Website: www.stjamescathedral.com.au



APPLICATION FOR BAPTISM

What is Baptism?

Baptism is a simple ceremony of washing in water, practised by Christians since the time of Jesus. It is a sign of turning to God, and of faith in Jesus Christ our Lord. At the same time, baptism symbolises Jesus' own death and resurrection. Those who ask for baptism recognise that their spiritual salvation depends on what Jesus did for them by His dying and rising again.

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Who may be Godparents?

Godparents should be members of the church who have themselves been baptised and have confirmed their faith. They may be either the parents themselves, or others close to the family who are interested in the child's spiritual welfare. Godparents should be able to answer 'yes' to the following questions:

- Are you yourself a follower of Jesus Christ and a member of His Church, sincerely believing the promises of God?
- Are you willing to sponsor this child, answering for him/her now, and accepting responsibility for his/her Christian upbringing?

In the past, a boy usually had two godfathers and a godmother, and a girl usually had two godmothers and a godfather. Although a good standard to follow, this is no longer required.

The duties of Godparents

Those who act as godparents in baptism are accepting the responsibility, with the parents, of providing encouragement, teaching and the help of a good example so that the children may be brought up to follow Christ and be faithful members of the church.

What is promised or undertaken in baptism?

Three promises are made by all candidates for baptism and these also are the undertakings made by the godparents when the candidate is a child:

- a renunciation of 'the world, the flesh and the devil', which means a rejection of all that is opposed to the will of God.
- a belief in God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, which means trust in God as the one who made us, in Jesus as the one who saved us, and in the Holy Spirit who makes us like Jesus.
- a firm intention to obey God and follow His leading in our lives.

When should baptism take place?

Baptisms should, whenever possible, be at a public service on Sundays. This means that the whole congregation may witness the admission of the newly baptised into Christ's church, and welcome them. It is essential that a firm link be established between the child and his/her family and the parish in which the child is likely to be brought up. If you feel there may be a reason why a Sunday service is not appropriate, please feel free to discuss this with the Dean.

What else can parents do?

Pray for the child. Baptism is not just a naming ceremony; it can be a most meaningful occasion for establishing yourselves, your home and family in a right relationship with God. You may have been out of touch with the church; or you may wish to ask about baptism or confirmation for yourself. Do not hesitate to discuss any questions you may have with your priest. Even if you are not certain that you are ready to bring your child to baptism, there is a brief service of 'Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child' in A Prayer Book For Australia which you may feel is more suitable for you and your family.

Is there a fee for Baptism?

No.

Parents should not feel any obligation in this matter. If they wish to make an offering to the church, either through the normal offering or some other way, they should feel free to do so.

If you wish to give an offering to the church, it is also possible to mark your offering for a particular intention: for example, placed in an enveloped marked 'To be used for church's work with children'. This is left totally to the discretion of the family.

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