

CANDLE, CERTIFICATE & BIBLE

These gifts are presented to the family at the occasion. The Candle is lit from the Christ Candle in our Chapel. It symbolises the coming of the light of Christ into the life of the newly baptised.

Certificate



We encourage parents to light this candle for a short time at each subsequent birthday and to take such opportunities to retell the story of the child's baptism. It may also be helpful for parents to light the candle as a focus for your prayer if your child is ill or in danger at any time.

The Certificate we issue is recognised by all the major Christian Churches and is seen as an official record of the celebration of this sacrament.

An entry is made in our Baptismal Register.

A Children's Bible and banner is given as encouragement to share God's word and celebrate the occasion.

OTHER CHILDREN ?

If there are older children in your family, they will normally want to know what is happening.

We are glad to include all family members in the celebration and normally our KUCA (children's) group begins after this time in the worship.

All children are welcome to share in enjoyable learning opportunities while the worship service continues for adults.

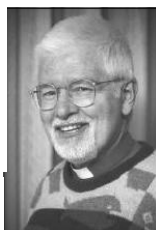
MORE QUESTIONS ?

Sometimes people ask what is the fee for Baptism. There is no fee. Baptism is free, just as God's grace and mercy is free for all people. You may wish to make an offering as a sign of your thankfulness to God and there is opportunity during the worship each week for this.

— FURTHER ENQUIRIES TO OUR MINISTER —

REV MARK J DUNN
32 Nicholson St
ESSENDON 3040

PHONE (03) 9375 1065
MOBILE 0409 009 443
E-MAIL mark@dunn.id.au



www.stjohnsessenon.org.au

BAPTISM



ST JOHN'S UNITING CHURCH ESSENDON

WHAT IS IT ?

In Baptism people become members of the church.

THE UNITING CHURCH BAPTISES ADULTS AS WELL AS CHILDREN.

Many people seek baptism for their children for reasons which are very different from the understanding of the church.

At times, this is sought under pressure from family and friends, or with a feeling that this is somehow the right thing to do.

Sadly, some parents believe that if their children are not baptised they will be in some spiritual danger should they die. This is not true.

Baptism is about growing relationships with Jesus Christ, the people of the world and the church. It is a very joyful occasion for the church and the one baptised, and is **A SERIOUS DECISION FOR PARENTS.**



HOW DOES IT HAPPEN ?

So that these relationships may begin to develop, parents seeking baptism for their child will be offered opportunities to share in the life of the church through:



- ◆ Invitations to worship and other activities
- ◆ The offering of care and support to them and their family
- ◆ Opportunities to develop friendships

Parents will be requested to attend teaching times during which learning on baptism will occur and **NEW RELATIONSHIPS CAN BEGIN TO GROW.**

THE NEXT STEPS

If parents decide on baptism, they request the approval of the Church Council using the enclosed form.

The sacrament of baptism will normally be scheduled to take place during the Sunday morning worship of the congregation. The Uniting Church order of worship will be used.



GODPARENTS ?

Within the Uniting Church it is not necessary to have godparents, however, you are welcome to appoint such people, so please discuss this with an Elder or the Minister. When we baptise a child it is a beginning rather than an end. We look forward to the day when, through love and nurture given by the church and the family, this child will acknowledge the Christian faith as his or her own.

The invitation to explore baptism is a call to the church to be a loving and nurturing community. It is also an invitation for parents to explore their own faith and share in the life of the congregation.



Sometimes when parents have considered the meaning of baptism and the responsibilities involved, they have chosen not to proceed immediately to **BAPTISM.**

OTHER OPTIONS ?

If this is your choice, there are other alternatives. One is the celebration, "Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child". The Minister would be happy to explore this with you.

Even if baptism or the thanksgiving are not for you at this time, the life and worship of the church is open to all. We invite you to share in the life of St John's, Essendon and assure you that a warm welcome awaits you.

THE MINISTER OF THE CHURCH IS AVAILABLE TO RESPOND TO ANY NEEDS OR QUESTIONS.