

### *Is there a right age for baptism?*

Baptism can happen at any age. What matters is that those concerned are committed to being or bringing up a child as a Christian. When teenagers and adults are baptised it is celebrated with Confirmation by the Bishop.

### *I was baptised as a child but dropped out of Church. Do I need to be baptised again for my child's baptism?*

No. You can only be baptised once, but there are ways of renewing your Christian commitment publicly as an adult. This is usually done at Easter.

### *I don't go to church. Can I still have my child baptised?*

Yes. The Church believes that God's love is available to all, regardless of background. When you meet with the Rector, they will talk about other options, such as a Thanksgiving service, for those who need more time to consider what is being asked of them. But it could be that God is inviting you into a deeper relationship with Himself through your child.

### *Can we have a private Baptism service?*

Only in exceptional circumstances, such as when a child is seriously ill. Baptisms usually take place in the church's main service, as a public declaration that the baptised person has become part of the church family. It is important that the wider church congregation is there to give welcome and offer support.



Priest-in-Charge: Revd Oliver Yengi

Parish Centre and Parish Office  
(next door to Epiphany Mundaring)  
11 Mann Street, Mundaring 6073  
Tel: 9295 1029

Email: [mundaringparish@westnet.com.au](mailto:mundaringparish@westnet.com.au)  
[www.mundaringanglicanparish.com](http://www.mundaringanglicanparish.com)

We respectfully acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation, who are the traditional custodians of this land. We pay our respects to Elders both past and present.

# *What is baptism?*

ANGLICAN  
PARISH OF  
MUNDARING



Thank you for your enquiry or interest about baptism. We want to help you prepare in the best possible way and this leaflet contains a brief outline of what baptism is. This will be covered in more detail when you meet our Rector.

In baptism, the person is received and welcomed into the Church, the Body of Christ, so it is important that the wider parish family be present to give that welcome and offer their support.

Children are baptised because of the faith of their parents - as our prayer book puts it *"Children are baptised in response to God's all embracing love. Parents and godparents who have responded to that love...bring their children for baptism."*

Whilst the baptism of a child is most certainly a joyful time, a time when families get together to celebrate new life, it is more than just that. Baptism marks the start of a journey of faith, which involves turning away from all that is evil, turning towards Christ and becoming an active member of the local and wider Christian community.

At the Baptism service the person being baptised, or the parents and godparents of an infant or child, will be asked to make some very important promises.

These promises are not made to the priest officiating at the service or to the congregation, who are witnesses, they are made to God. The promises are made in response to the following four questions, to which the answer is *"I do"*. ***Do you turn to Christ? Do you repent of your sins? Do you reject selfish living, and all that is false or unjust? Do you renounce Satan and all evil?***

The person being baptised, or the parents and godparents, will then be asked to affirm the faith of the Church as their own faith by saying the following Creed.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the  
Father; from there he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Right now all this might seem frightening, especially if you haven't had any contact with the Church for a while but please don't be anxious. The purpose of meeting with you is to fully explain all that a baptism means and you will have plenty of time to ask questions and decide whether you are ready at this time to move forward to baptism, either for you or your child.

We do hope you will explore this exciting start to a journey of faith; a journey that will last a lifetime.

### ***What is the next step?***

Come along to a 9.30am Sunday service and afterwards have a chat with our Rector over a cup of tea or coffee to make a mutually convenient time to meet.

### ***Is there a fee for Baptism?***

No. Baptism is a free gift from God available to all through the local Church.

### ***How many Godparents should we have?***

You can have as many or as few as you like. The real question is are they prepared to make the promises and fulfill their responsibility. They need to be selected with care.

