

Baptisms

BROOME
ANGLICAN
CHURCH

Good News
for Broome

This document is about services for infants and children. To discuss an adult baptism at Broome Anglican Church, please contact the ministry staff.

Welcome

We'd like to begin this booklet with some words about Jesus from the Bible:

¹³ And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. ¹⁵ Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.' ¹⁶ And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them. **The Gospel of Mark 10.13-16**

In these words we see that Jesus welcomed children. We welcome them too! We're always happy to have children in our services, even noisy babies! In the school term we run children's programs and in the school holidays we provide children's activities. So every Sunday is a good day to bring children to church.

We are also pleased to offer services of baptism or thanksgiving for children. The appropriate service depends on the Christian commitment of one or both parents.

Services

Both baptism and thanksgiving services are ways to celebrate a birth and thank God for a child's life. However, there are some differences between the services.

Baptism

At a baptism service, water is used to symbolise the washing away of sin and the new birth for those who have faith in Christ. One or both parents profess faith on behalf of the child, who can profess his or her own faith when ready. The minister will ask the parent(s): 'Are you yourself a follower of Jesus Christ, and a member of his church, sincerely believing the promises of God?' For this reason, this service is appropriate when parents are or become active church members.

Thanksgiving

At a thanksgiving service, the minister lays hands on the child's head, gives thanks for the child's life, and prays for the child's wellbeing. No profession of faith are made on the child's behalf and no questions are asked about the Christian commitment of the parent(s). For this reason, this service is appropriate when the parents are not willing to become active church members at present, but still have a faith that they'd like to introduce to the child without compromising their integrity.

Next Steps

If you're not currently an active member of our church, we invite you to come to one or more Sunday morning services and consider the following questions:

- Do I believe the same things as the people at this church?
- Do I want to follow Jesus like the people at this church?
- Do I want to keep gathering with the people at this church?

If your answer to all those questions is 'Yes', please tell one of our ministers, who'll be delighted to welcome you to the church and discuss baptism arrangements.

If your answer to any of those questions is 'No' or 'Not sure', you're welcome to keep coming to church while you figure those things out. In the meantime, please tell one of our ministers if you'd like to arrange a thanksgiving service for your child.

Frequently Asked Questions

When are baptisms usually conducted?

Baptisms are usually conducted at (or in-between) one of our morning services, so that the church family can participate in welcoming its newest member.

What if I don't live in Broome?

Where possible, children should be baptised in a church they'll be able to attend regularly. We welcome people who live in remote parts of the West Kimberley as 'satellite members' who will participate in church life to the extent they are able.

What if one parent is absent or isn't a Christian?

We're happy to conduct a baptism when one parent 'is a follower of Jesus Christ, and a member of his church, sincerely believing the promises of God'. When there are no parents who fit this description, a thanksgiving service is appropriate.

Do Godparents have to be Christians?

At a baptism service, Godparents are asked the same question as parents about being 'a follower of Jesus Christ, and a member of his church, sincerely believing the promises of God'. It is wise to choose committed Christians as Godparents so they can pray for the child as well as set a good example as a follower of Jesus.

Why does this church have higher expectations than other churches?

Different churches understand the significance of baptism in various ways. We expect you would want to see your child baptised in a church whose understanding of baptism matches yours. We also hope you appreciate that we take these services seriously, because we believe that people's eternal futures are at stake.

Contact



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