

INFORMATION SLIP

Full Name of Person to be Baptized _____
_____ Surname _____

Date and place of birth _____

Home Address _____

Email _____

Phone Numbers of contact person, Name _____

Day _____ Night _____ Mobile _____

Date requested for baptism ____/____/____

Other relevant information.

Father's Full Name _____

Mother's Christian Name _____
and Maiden Surname _____

Parents' church membership (confirmed etc.)

Details of names and birthdays of other children baptized

where? _____

I give permission for the UCA Warwick Killarney Parish to contact me with a card on my child's birthday and also to let me know of coming events.

Yes

No

What is Baptism ?

The Christian church, from its beginning, has baptized people as a sign of their entry into the community of believers. For centuries most Christian churches have also baptized the children of Christian parents as a sign that children, too, are part of the whole church family. The UCA baptizes people as the visible act which declares that God loves and accepts them as sons or daughters in his family. Through this act, Jesus Christ affirms their place within his church.

The Church believes that when we baptize people,
—they receive the sign of God's love and acceptance, which includes both us and them.
—they are assured of God's cleansing and forgiveness,
—they are united with Jesus Christ and share in his life,
—they are received as members of the Christian church and called to serve,
—they are assured of the gift of the Holy Spirit to strengthen and renew them.

What happens in the Service?

Baptism takes place within a public service of Christian worship. Baptism involves the Symbolic use of water as an affirmation of the Christian faith, and speaks of the love and forgiveness which God offers his people through his Son. The service usually has a statement about the church's understanding of baptism and recalls words of scripture as a warrant for the sacrament.

The sacrament has meaning both for those who come to confess the Christian faith themselves, and for children for whose instruction and nourishment in the faith the church takes responsibility along with their Christian parents.

Baptism is primarily about what God is saying and doing as one party in the covenant with his people. A covenant always involves two parties, so thought must be given to our response to God. All who seek baptism, for themselves or for their children, must give serious thought to the obligations they are undertaking.

QUESTIONS SOMETIMES ASKED

What about private baptism?

Since the congregation is one of the parties involved in baptism, it is important that they be present to receive the child into their fellowship. The place for baptism is in a service of public worship and only where this is quite impossible can exceptions be made. Some parents may hesitate through shyness about standing up in public, but with so much in their hearts for the child, this will not be hard to overcome.

Does it matter if a child is not baptized?

While some churches teach that baptism is essential to salvation, our church has never held this. God's love is not to be limited in this way. Nevertheless, we believe that when the assurance of his love is offered through this sacrament, it would be regrettable to refuse the gift. Our Lord was baptized; he invites his followers to share in the same sign.

What about those who say that full immersion is essential?

In biblical times, and through the history of the church, there have been various methods: baptism has been by sprinkling, by pouring, or by partial or full immersion. Evidences of all can be found, but the important thing is not the amount of water or the way it is used, but the spiritual truths to which baptism points.

Why not wait until the child is older?

Baptism, as we have stated, is the sign of God's accepting love, and it is the declaration that the baptized person belongs to him. It is appropriate then, to baptize not only believers but also their children. Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them'. God's love always precedes our response.

What should we do if we wish to proceed?

Please ring the Church Office on (07) 4661 1080 for further information, and then you can together arrange an interview.

Please take the time to fill out the form attached and return in person or by post to The Minister, Rev Ansie Liebenberg, PO Box 436, Warwick Qld. 4370.

Email: minister@wkuc.org.au or ansie.uc@outlook.com

This material is developed from "Baptism and our children." K.D Pearson, Uniting Church Press, 1982.



CHRISTIAN BAPTISM

IN THE

WARWICK KILLARNEY PARISH

THE UNITING CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA



*Information for Adults and Children
seeking Baptism in the Uniting Church,
and for Parents seeking Baptism for
Infants and Younger Children.*