



“Whoever made a place for this message in their hearts received baptism, and devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching, to sharing community together, to the breaking of bread and prayers.”

Acts 2:42

WELCOME

We are pleased that you have chosen Williamstown Uniting Church – Electra St for the Baptism of your child. We hope it will be an enjoyable and memorable occasion for you.

The Sacrament of Baptism is a special occasion for you and your family and for the Electra Street congregation as a Christian community of love and justice.

Through the ritual of Baptism we connect with Christians around the world and throughout time. We bring to mind Jesus, whose life was deeply touched by the Spirit. We see the Divine Spirit in all people.

Baptism symbolises the church’s welcome for your child. Baptism is not about opening the door to the church or to God. God’s love is already present. Baptism is the church’s way of celebrating and naming the grace of God living in every one of God’s children. It is the way we welcome new members into the life of the universal community of faith.

There is some information that you need to know in advance of the service:

Baptisms occur in our morning Worship Service which commences at 10.00am. The whole service takes between an hour and an hour and a half. The Church service has several stages. Our tradition is that people stay for the whole service.

You are welcome to take photographs in the Church at the time of the Baptism, but we ask you to refrain from photography during the other parts of the service until the end of the service.

You, your family and friends are most welcome to join with the congregation for morning tea after the Service.

THE BAPTISM

When the time for the Baptism comes, the Minister will invite parents and children (siblings are welcome) to come to the font. Godparents are welcome and will be included in the Baptism service. The Minister will ask the parents the name of the child. The Minister will then baptise the child and offer a blessing. Parents will be asked to make a commitment to share the Christian faith with their child.

A certificate will be presented, along with a candle and your child's name will be placed on the Electra St Baptismal Chain. During the Baptism hymn the minister may carry the child into the congregation, if the parents (and the child!) are willing. The family will then return to their seats.

THE WEEK PRECEDING THE SERVICE

The week prior to the Sunday of the Baptism the Minister will be in touch and will send you an outline of the Order of Baptism.

IS THERE A FEE FOR THIS SERVICE?

There is no fee for Baptism which is a sacrament of the Church. Many families wish to make a donation to the church to celebrate the Baptism, but it is entirely voluntary. Family and friends are also able to make a donation which can be placed in the offering plate as it is passed during the service.

YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

At this special time of Baptism, we are pleased to welcome your family and friends. We would like them to feel comfortable when they come. We appreciate that some may come from a completely different culture, and others may have little or no interest in religion or the Church. They are all welcome.

FURTHER QUESTIONS

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us on 9397 5481 or via williuca@bigpond.com.