



Baptising your baby in the beautiful

Saint David's Cathedral Hobart

Adults come for baptism too

*C*athedral City Creative



in Christ

A Message from the Dean

Saint David's is a beautiful Cathedral and my staff and I welcome the opportunity to walk with you and your family in this celebration of new birth and family faith.

Strong stable family life and a faith are wonderful attributes that parents bring to the well being for their children's happiness and future. Research shows that a strong sense of identity, a reasoned faith in God and a sense of both direction and hope prepare us well for adulthood.

The Cathedral clergy and I value this opportunity to share with you on this occasion.

This brochure contains

- practical information
- helps to prepare for baptism
- ideas to bring God into the day, and
- an invitation to journey with us on the pilgrimage of faith and life.

Saint David's staff is experienced and, more importantly, wants your day to be just right for you as parents and for your family.

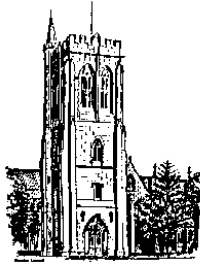
Do not hesitate to ask questions.

The minister for baptism is The Reverend Shelagh Shaw. Other members of the staff may also be contacted.

In the meantime the Cathedral congregations will be praying for your family and we look forward to you sharing with us.

Be assured of my best wishes and prayer.

Richard Humphrey
Dean of Hobart



What you must do

Confirm arrangements on the 'Your baptism' application form. Please take care with the spelling of all names. It is good to include the full and correct names of parents and godparents for entry in the register and on the certificate of baptism.

Set a date for the baptism – Baptism is available in the 10am service by arrangement. This service is a choral Eucharist. The Cathedral choir normally sings and the service lasts about 75 minutes.

In our Cathedral baptism is often celebrated immediately following the 10am service.

- Baptisms can be celebrated by arrangement at 11.30am on the 1st Sunday of the month.
- Baptisms may also be at 11.30am on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

Usually you should allow 8 weeks notice for preparation.

We encourage and welcome as many of your godparents and guests to attend the service immediately before the baptism, in the event it is at 11.30am.

Baptisms are held at other times by special arrangement with the Dean (especially in extraordinary circumstances (guests, godparents from the Mainland or afar etc.))

Flowers at St David's are always of a very high quality. You can arrange for the flowers on the day to be named in celebration of your child and the baptism. This can be organised at a cost of \$75. Make your cheque in favour 'Friends of St David's.' The celebration flowers are recorded in the bulletin and a card placed in front of the flowers in the Hope Chapel or the pulpit.

Is there a fee? – There is no set fee. You may discuss a thanksgiving gift with the clergy. A collection is taken both in the church service and at the baptism. Please inform your guests there is a collection.

Are you baptised? – If you are not baptised or confirmed and would like to personally consider this, please feel free to raise this and talk to the clergy. It is not unusual for one or both parents to seek baptism (and subsequent confirmation) at the same time as their child's baptism.

Is church attendance compulsory– We encourage you to attend church on at least one occasion before the day. We will, by arrangement, have someone to welcome you and show you the ropes. You may care to take communion. This is discussed below.

Above all – Welcome! Richard, Shelagh and Tom look forward to meeting you and arranging your baby's baptism.

What is baptism?

Baptism is a sacrament or sign of God's grace to us in Jesus. The Bible teaches that God in his love and kindness sent his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to live and die for the sins of the world. Through faith (believing trust) in the Son we receive salvation as a free gift from God. The sacrament of baptism marks the baptised out as Christ's.

Of course a baby has no personal faith but is baptised into the faith of his or her parents (that is why this occasion is an opportunity for us to question, perhaps rediscover, or discover more personally our own faith). Importantly in the service of baptism we, you as parents and your baby's godparents, together with the congregation pray that baby may ***be born again and made an heir of everlasting salvation.***

As a parent you want the very best for your child. We encourage you in this step of baptism because God's gift of eternal life and your child's relationship with God is fundamental for life's preparation, for hope and for personal assurance of the love of God.

What makes a family Christian?

We encourage parents to explore their own faith and their questions about hope, life and God. Faith and hope are two of the important dimensions to a strong and growing family life. Research shows that Christian faith strengthens both your marriage and family life.

Many, even among the clergy, grew in faith later in life.

It is easy to judge Jesus Christ by his followers. Many Christians, we clergy included, are not always the best examples for the loving God of grace and kindness met in the Bible.

Jesus, the Son of God wants us to know his heavenly Father as God and friend. The gospels portray a Son of God who is a man of deep compassion and grace and love. He offers life to the full and teaches that eternal life is a hope we can know today and live by day by day. It makes a difference.

So a Christian family is one that has Christ and his example in it. This is a discovery not an imposition.

You may not have a firm understanding of Christian faith or you may not be a practising Anglican. Take this opportunity to re-examine your own commitment and we invite you to join the community of faith at the Cathedral.

We are not here to indoctrinate you but we do invite you to consider –

- Coming to the Cathedral Church on at least three occasions before the baptism.
- Perhaps completing our 6 week short course – Christianity Explained – before or after the baptism. You will ***not be asked to pray, to read the Bible aloud or any questions***. (Christianity Explained can be done as a family with one of our clergy or family welcomers or in a small group.)
- Reading at least one story of Jesus, known as a gospel. We will give you Mark or John (or both if you like) in a modern easy read format.

Must I come to Church?

We invite you to discover the community of faith at the Cathedral. You will be most welcome and you need not, as our guest, put any money in collection (although you can if you like.) Your clergyperson by arrangement will have a Cathedral welcomer meet you a few minutes before the start of a service and to try and see you each week you attend. Again there is no compulsion but we hope that you will attend the Cathedral, and if possible as a family, on at least one Sunday.

Does Saint David's have other requirements?

We will give you a copy of the service to read.

We will answer any questions you may have.

You will want to meet with one of our clergy on at least one occasion to make preliminary arrangements and share pre-baptismal interview by arrangement

Godparents (sometimes called sponsors) may also attend an interview.

Questions you may ask might include “Why baptism?” “What is Anglican baptism?” “What are the candidates and godparents are promising?”

Most of all, we want to help you make a good start to your family life and ensure that you do the very best to provide for your family and faith.

How many Interviews are required?

If distance is a problem we will try to fit in with you.

There are usually two interviews.

At the first interview you will set the date and time and we will answer any preliminary questions.

The second interview is a longer one where we will help you with any questions about baptism and explore any 'faith' questions. If you would like to ask questions about any aspect of the service, faith or doing our short course we would love to help you. We are excited that you are having your baby baptised. We hope both parents will participate in this interview.

What next?

We look forward to assisting you in the future with growing your child in the faith?

Your baby's (child's) name is now put on the cradle roll. Children receive a card on the anniversary of baptism.

You will be invited to family services such as the children's Christmas service. Or you may want to join the Cathedral family or another Parish church. We can help you with these matters.

From time to time we run family courses or special functions and will advise you of these.

You will receive the Cathedral publication "The Griffin."

Finally please keep your address, including any email address, current with us (remember to put my email address in your computer address book to keep us updated.)

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