

OUTWARD SIGN



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# BAPTISM

‘Jesus said, ‘I am the way, the truth and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me’. John 14:6



Whether you are a regular member, or inquiring for the first time about Baptism, we would like to offer you a welcome to the church family that meets here in the Moree Anglican Parish. This leaflet seeks to help you understand the significance of Baptism and what it means to become a member of God's church.

Please read this information carefully. We welcome children into the local church family within the Anglican system in two ways:

- **Thanksgiving**
- **Baptism**

**Thanksgiving** for the birth of a child is not a form of baptism. It is a shorter service without the promises of baptism. In this service we do four (4) things:

1. We thank God for the gift of the child
2. We ask for wisdom in bringing up the child
3. We ask God to help the child to know and follow Him
4. We name the child (no water is involved)

**Baptisms** have been held since the beginning of Christianity. *Baptism will not* give your child religion, or ensure acceptance into heaven. It is a formal welcome into Christ's church, and the beginning of learning more about what it means to follow Christ.

**The baptism service** asks the parents and Godparents to publicly answer questions about their faith in Jesus, and to make promises before God, your family, friends and the local church family, for themselves and their child.

These are the questions!

- Do you turn to Christ? In other words, have you made the step of deciding to live with Jesus as your Saviour and having him in charge of your life i.e., are you a Christian?
- Are you a follower of the Lord Jesus Christ? Having decided to be a follower of Christ, does your life reflect that you read the Bible, live the way He calls you to, as His follower, and meet with His people each week?
- Will you live the Christian life and raise your child in this faith? This means that you will be endeavouring to teach your child what it means to be a Christian so that they will be helped to follow Christ as they become old enough to decide for themselves. You will also be asked to join in saying the Apostles Creed as an expression of your Christian beliefs.

Please remember that the Godparents/ sponsors are making the same promises as you are, so the issues of genuine commitment to Christ are as important for them as they are for you.



You are required to attend church for four (4) weeks and take part in a short course (4 x 1 hour sessions) explaining the Christian faith.

At both the Thanksgiving Service and Baptism Service, an appropriate certificate and child's Bible is presented at the service.