

We are delighted that you are considering having your child baptised in the Anglican Parish of Cockle Bay. It is an important decision you are making as a parent, and as a parish we would like to share your responsibility for your child's Christian formation.

As part of your preparations for your child's baptism, we invite you to join us for worship. You are most welcome at our regular Sunday services at 7:45am at All Saints Church, Boolaroo and 9:30am at St David's Church, Teralba. We also ask you to take the time to read this leaflet and think about the meaning of baptism for yourself and your child.

All enquiries and bookings for baptisms can initially to be made to our Parish Secretary by calling 4958 4087 or emailing lolart2@bigpond.com, or our Parish Priest by calling 0478 689967 or emailing myfoleyfamily@gmail.com.

What is Baptism?

Jesus' teaching about Baptism is stated in several readings in the Bible. In one of

these, in the Gospel written by John, Jesus taught that no one can see the Kingdom of God unless they are born again, and no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. He said that a person is born physically of human parents, but they need to be born again spiritually of the Spirit of God.

Thus Jesus says at our natural birth we are given life for this present world, and we become members of our natural families and citizens in our community. But Jesus says that we must be spiritually born again to become members of God's family. Baptism is all about that rebirth, where we become members of God's family and citizens of God's community and kingdom, and members of the Church. Baptism marks that a person now shares the life of Jesus Christ, and that is what the old English word christening means.

An important understanding of Baptism is that it is a Sacrament. A Sacrament is an outward sign of an inward and

spiritual grace from God. In the Baptism service we use outward symbols of water, oil and candles as signs of God's grace and Spirit now in the Baptised child's life. This Sacrament reminds us that our faith and Christian life does not begin with or rely upon what we do for God, but with what God does for us. There is nothing we can do to earn God's love whether we are an adult, child or infant. God's love will always be an unearned gift and in Baptising children and infants we are especially reminded of this.

Some of the people involved: Whether your child will grow up to know that they are Christian will depend on a number of people.

You as parent(s): The main responsibility of your child's well-being is yours. During Baptism you will be asked whether you are willing to accept the responsibilities of Christian parenthood, and you will be asked to confirm your own commitment to faith in Jesus Christ. Don't be shy if you are

unsure of what you believe. This may be an opportunity to look at where you are spiritually and to question things you don't understand.

Godparents/Sponsors: They are there to help you in the Christian upbringing of their godchild. They too will be asked to confirm their faith in Jesus Christ, and to accept the responsibilities of Christian upbringing of their Godchild. If they are unsure of what they believe, they too may take this opportunity to look at where they are spiritually and to question things they don't understand.

Other family members: Your family will provide this child's first experiences of living in community. Baptism is a good chance especially for siblings and other family members to participate in the child's Baptism and affirm this child's relationship to them.

The Church: The priest and the parish community are there not only to perform the ceremony and celebrate the Baptism, but to continue to welcome

and support your child and their future spiritual development.

Fees

There is no fee for Baptism, but you may consider giving a donation for the Parish's continuing ministry to children and families in the local community.

Service

The priest will arrange an interview to discuss Baptism and the details of a Baptism service with you. Your child's Baptism may be included in one of the regular Sunday services of the parish or may be arranged at another mutually suitable time in either one of the parish's churches.

***BAPTISM IN THE
ANGLICAN PARISH OF
COCKLE BAY:
ALL SAINTS, BOOLAROO
AND
ST DAVID'S, TERALBA***

