

The Parish of Llanishen



The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

***Baptism is our proof and our
confirmation of our Creative God;
a God who in his love and longing
to be one with us,
reaches out and invites us
to join with him in being creative.***

*Thank you for your inquiry about Holy Baptism
at St Isan's Church, Llanishen.*

*Please read the enclosed leaflet and
complete the application form.*

*Please return the form to the clergy
as soon as possible.*



What is Holy Baptism?

Baptism means 'plunging'. Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan by John the Baptist. The sign of the Holy Spirit and the Father's voice was heard, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3-17)

Jesus called his death and resurrection a 'Baptism'. To his apostles Jesus said, "Are you willing to be baptised with the baptism with which I must be baptised?"

In his baptism Jesus was 'plunged' into death but the Father raised

him up by giving him the Holy Spirit.

Baptism is the sign instituted by Jesus to unite us with his own baptism. What happened at Jesus' death and resurrection is what happens baptism, so that St Paul could write, "When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the fathers glory, we too might live a new life" (Romans 6:3-4)

Baptism is a 'sacrament': a visible sign of God's love. In baptism, we are thanking God for his gift of life and publicly acknowledging his love. We are acknowledging that we all need to turn away from the darkness of evil and to make a new start with God.

Baptism is a sign of salvation because it is the sacraments introduced by Jesus to make as part of his Body, the church. In baptism, you as parents are: thanking God for his gift of life, deciding to start your child on the journey of faith and asking for the Church's support.

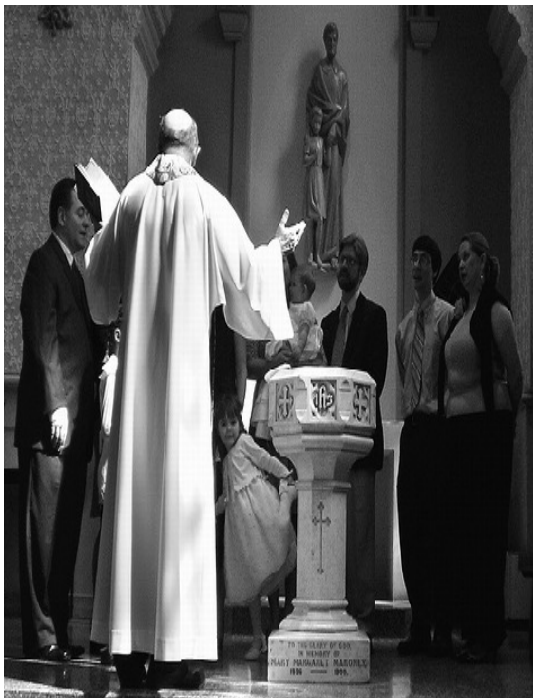
***Jesus told Nicodemus,
"I tell you most solemnly, a
lesser man is born of
water and the spirit,
we cannot enter the
kingdom of God"***

John 3:5

“When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the fathers glory, we too might live a new life”

Romans 6:3-4

For your child, baptism: marks the start of a journey of faith, which involves turning away from the darkness of self-centeredness, turning towards Christ and becoming a member of the local and worldwide Christian family.



Frequently Asked Questions:

Q. What's the difference between a baptism and a christening?

A. None, they are just different words for the same thing.

Q. Can we have a private service of baptism?

A. Baptisms usually take place within the church's 10.30 Sunday Service, because they are a public declaration that your child has become part of the church family. It is important that the church congregation is there to support you and welcome your child. They also take place at 4.30 on a date to be agreed by the clergy. Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis. The application form must be received by the clergy before a date can be reserved.

Q. What is the right age for baptism?

A. Baptism can happen at any age. What matters is that those concerned believe it is right to ask for baptism.

Q. What does it cost?

A. The Baptism service is free. A collection is taken for the work of the church during the service.

Q. I'm not a regular churchgoer. Can I still have my child baptised?

A. Yes. The Church believes that God's love is available to all, regardless of their background.

Q. What are Godparents?

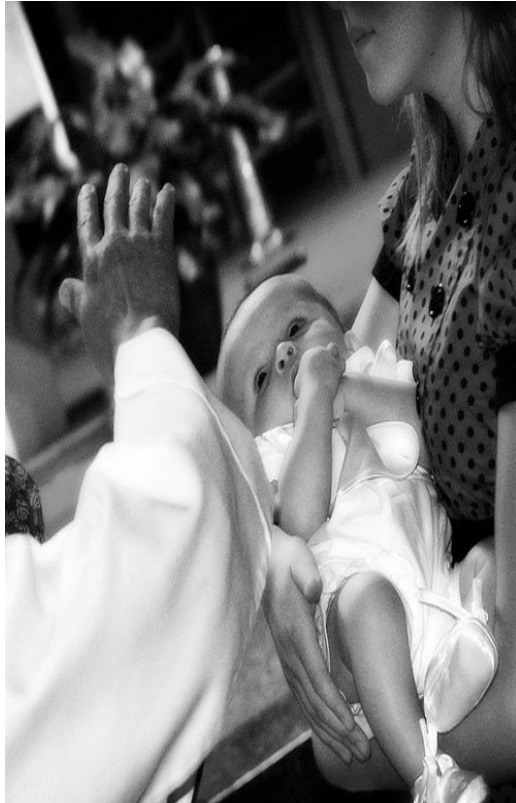
A. Godparents make the same promises, on behalf of the child being baptised as the parents. Godparents promise to pray and support the child and to help the parents to bring up the child in the Christian faith. It is an important and responsible role.

Q. Who can be a Godparent?

A. You should have at least two Godparents, one man and one woman to act as Godparents. Godparents can be family members or friends. However, it is important that you choose people who will take an interest in your child's spiritual welfare and who will pray for you and your child, they **must** be baptised Christians themselves. If not, the possibility of Adult Baptism can be discussed with the clergy. This involves a course of instruction.

Q. What part do the Godparents play during the service?

A. At the service, the Godparents particularly are asked to re-affirm their own Baptismal promises, to affirm their allegiance to the Christian faith, and make three promises on behalf of the child. A copy of these statements are on the Application for Baptism Form for the Godparents to read. If they have any difficulty with these, they should not act as Godparents.



Holy Baptism is the way in which we join the Church, becoming Christians. It is a significant and joyful occasion for us all.

The Church wants to make this a very special time for your family.

Nearer the date of the Baptism you will receive an invitation to an informal meeting at the church to meet the clergy over a cup of coffee and an receive an explanation of the service.

Please ask if you need any further help.