

What happens next?

- ✓ You'll need to fill your details in on the green form and confirm the date. This can be done at the preparation meeting.
- ✓ In the weeks before the baptism service there will be a rehearsal at your home with the minister who will be taking the service – you and the godparents will need to attend.
- ✓ You will be invited to the family service in Church, the month before your Baptism.

A Prayer for your child

Loving God,
thank you for the precious gift of
[child's name]
and for all the joy that she/he brings us.
Bless, protect and be with her/him on the
journey through life, and help him/her to
follow in the way of Jesus Christ

Amen.

You're invited to any of our services and events.

**Sundays at 10.30am
PARISH EUCHARIST
(HOLY COMMUNION)**

Children's activities on 1st and 3rd Sundays

Please contact us if you have any questions

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Archbishops Council 2014: Your Baptism

**THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST PETER, DARWEN**

Baptism – A Parent's Guide



What is baptism?

Through Baptism the church welcomes new members into the Christian family. It's a sign of new birth and celebration of the outpouring of God's love for all God's children. It's an opportunity to pray for the candidate in their journey through life ahead and to remember that in good times and bad, God is with us.

There is no cost for a baptism service. At the end of the service there will be a plate for you and your guests to leave a donation to the church.

Making decisions and promises

When you bring your child for Baptism, you will be asked to declare publicly on behalf of your child that you believe in God and that you will bring your child to live following Jesus' example.



You will be asked to answer, on your child's behalf, that you have decided to turn away from everything which is evil and instead to turn towards Christ and the ways of goodness and love

The declarations made by you and the child's godparents will be made in front of the congregation; they will promise to support you and pray for you and your child.

Symbols and actions used during the service

The sign of the cross - the minister will make the sign of the cross on your child's forehead. This is like an invisible badge to show that Christians are members of Christ's family.

The minister says:
Christ claims you for his own.
Receive the sign of his cross.

The minister may also invite you and the godparents to sign the cross on your child's forehead after he or she has done so.

Water - the minister will pour water on your child's head three times. Water is a sign of washing and cleansing. In baptism it is a sign of beginning a new life with God.

Anointing - after baptism in water, the minister may put a white robe on the child

and anoint him or her with oil. This is a sign of the outpouring of God's Holy Spirit and grace.

The welcome - the congregation will say some words of welcome to acknowledge that your child has joined the Christian family and to welcome and congratulate them.

Candles - Jesus is the Light of the World. A large candle (the Easter Candle) is lit during the service. Those who have been baptised are also given a lighted candle at the end of the service as a reminder of the light which has come into your child's life and which is taken into the world to bring light to others.



What happens during the service?

Part of the service will take place at the front of the church, but for the Baptism itself, parents and godparents, sometimes family and friends too, will usually be asked by the minister to gather around the font. (The font is a large basin on a pedestal, containing the water for baptism.)

The minister will ask the parents and godparents to make declarations on behalf of the child

The minister will make sure you know where to sit and when you need to move. Some parts of the service will be for everyone to join in with, some will be for you and the godparents.

Possible jobs for godparents

- A godparent is asked to pour the water into the font for the baptism – an older sibling could also help with this.
- A godparent is asked to hold the white robe and place it on the child's shoulders after the baptism.
- A godparent is asked to receive the baptism candle at the end of the service on behalf of the child.