



ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH  
TOORAK  
EST. 1859



*I baptize you in the name  
of the Father and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit*

Order of Service for  
**HOLY BAPTISM**

Please do not remove from the Church

## A PASTORAL NOTE

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. For all involved, particularly the candidates but also parents, godparents and sponsors, it is a joyful moment when we rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ, making serious promises and declaring the faith. The wider community of the local church and friends welcome the new Christian, promising support and prayer for the future. Hearing and doing these things provides an opportunity to remember our own baptism and reflect on the progress made on that journey, which is now to be shared with this new member of the Church.

The service paints many vivid pictures of what happens on the Christian way. There is the sign of the cross, the badge of faith in the Christian journey, which reminds us of Christ's death for us. Our 'drowning' in the water of baptism, where we believe we die to sin and are raised to new life, unites us to Christ's dying and rising, a picture that can be brought home vividly by the way the baptism is administered. Water is also a sign of new life, as we are born again by water and the Spirit, as Jesus was at his baptism. And as a sign of that new life, there may be a lighted candle, a picture of the light of Christ conquering the darkness of evil. Everyone who is baptised walks in that light for the rest of their lives.

As you pray for the candidates, picture them with yourself and the whole Church throughout the ages, journeying into the fullness of God's love.

Jesus said, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'  
John 10.10.

*From: 'Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England'.*

## BAPTISM RITE

### THE PREPARATION

*The greeting*

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

*Introduction*

Baptism is the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When he had risen from the dead, he commanded his followers to go and make disciples of all nations baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

We have come together today to obey that command.

Baptism with water signifies the cleansing from sin that Jesus' death makes possible, and the new life that God gives us through the Holy Spirit. In baptism the promises of God are visibly signed and sealed for us. We are joined to Christ, and made members of his body, the Church universal.

*Where children are to be baptised, the priest continues*

Children are baptised in response to God's all-embracing love. Parents and godparents who have responded to that love come now to bring their children for baptism. Before this congregation they must express their own trust and commitment to the promises of God, and their intention to bring up their children in the faith and practice of the Church. In due time these children should make their own response to God, and be prepared for confirmation.

*The priest continues*

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit you give to your faithful people new life in the water of baptism.

Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit, that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love, and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*One or more passages from the Bible may be read.*

### (1) A reading from the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 43

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made.'

Hear the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### (2) A reading from the Letter to the Galatians, Chapter 3, verses 27-29

As many of you as were baptised into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

### (3) A reading from the Gospel of St Mark, Chapter 1, verses 1-11

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.”

John the baptiser appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’

Hear the word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

## **THE PRESENTATION**

*The candidates for baptism are presented to the priest and congregation by their sponsors, and/or parent/s and godparent/s.*

We welcome those who come to be baptised. I invite their sponsors to present them now.

*The parents and godparents respond, saying*

**We present *Name* to be baptised.**

*The priest asks those able to answer for themselves*

Do you wish to be baptised?

**I do.**

*The priest addresses the congregation, saying*

Faith is the gift of God to God’s people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling.

Will you welcome *this person/ these people* and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

**All We will, with God’s help.**

*At the baptism of children, the priest then says to the parents and godparents*

Parents and godparents, the Church receives *this child/these children* with joy. Today we are trusting God for their growth in faith. Will you pray for them, draw them by your example into the community of faith, and walk with them in the way of Christ?

*The parents and godparents respond, saying*

**We will, with God's help.**

*The priest continues*

In baptism *this child/ these children* begin their journey in faith. You speak for them today. Will you care for them, and help them to take their place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

*The parents and godparents respond, saying*

**We will, with God's help.**

*The priest continues*

Will you accept the responsibilities placed upon you in bringing this child for baptism?

**I will.**

Are you willing to answer on behalf of this child?

**I am.**

By your own prayers and example, by your friendship and love, will you encourage this child in the life and faith of the Christian community?

**I will, with God's help.**

## THE DECISION

*The priest says to candidates able to answer for themselves, and to the parents and godparents of those unable to answer for themselves:*

Before God and this congregation, you must now affirm that you turn to Christ and reject all that is evil:

Do you turn to Christ?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins?

**I repent of my sins.**

Do you reject selfish living, and all that is false and unjust?

**I reject them all.**

Do you renounce Satan, and all evil?

**I renounce all that is evil.**

Will you, by God's grace, strive to live as a disciple of Christ, loving God with your whole heart, and your neighbour as yourself, until your life's end?

**I will, with God's help.**

## THE BAPTISM

*Water is poured into the font.*

*The priest says*

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.

In it we are buried with Christ in his death.

By it we share in his resurrection.

Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son,

we baptise into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.

*The priest blesses the water, saying*

Now (+) bless and sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, they who are baptised in it may be cleansed from sin and born again. Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for ever.  
**All Amen.**

*The priest addresses the congregation, saying*

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to affirm the faith of the Church.

*All who are able are invited to stand*

Do you believe in God the Father?

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in God the Son?

**All I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**All I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

This is the faith of the church.

**All This is our faith. We believe in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**



*Each candidate with their family, godparents and/or sponsors comes to the font in turn.*

*The priest pours water over the candidate, saying*

N. I baptise you in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

*The priest makes a cross on the forehead of the candidate, saying*

N. I sign you with the sign of the cross to show that you are marked as Christ's own for ever.

**All Amen.**

The world now is too dangerous and too beautiful for anything but love. The Holy Spirit anoint your eyes so you see God in everyone, your ears so you hear the cry of the poor, your hands so everything you touch is a sacrament, your feet so you run to those who need you. And may your heart be so opened, so set on fire, that your life and your love changes everything. Live as a disciple of Christ: fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith.

**All Confess Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, look for his coming in glory.**

*A baptismal candle for each candidate is lit from the Paschal (Easter) candle.*

*The priest continues, saying*

God has brought you out of darkness into God's marvellous light.

**All Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.**

*The baptism certificates may be presented to the newly baptised and/or the sponsors.*

*After all candidates have been baptised, the priest then says this blessing*

May God, who has received you by baptism into God's Church, pour upon you the riches of God's grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by God's anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

**All Amen.**

## THE WELCOME

*The priest addresses all of the newly baptised, saying*

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism; for by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body. God has now called you into God's church.  
**All We therefore receive and welcome you as a member with us of the body of Christ, as a child of the one heavenly Father, and as an inheritor of the kingdom of God.**

## THE PRAYERS

Let us pray:

Gracious God,

we who have been brought from death to life, dedicate ourselves to you. Produce in us the fruit of your Spirit. Equip us to serve your people and advance your gospel in the world. Enable us to live in holiness and righteousness and to please you in all that we do; in the name of Jesus our Saviour.

**All Amen.**

*Where children have been baptised*

Faithful and loving God,

bless those who care for *this child/these children* and grant them your gifts of love, wisdom and faith.

Pour upon them your healing and reconciling love, and protect their home from all evil.

Fill them with the light of your presence and establish them in the joy of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All Amen.**

*The prayers continue*

God of grace and life, in your love you have given us a place among your people; keep us faithful to our baptism, and prepare us for that glorious day when the whole creation will be made perfect in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**All Amen.**

*The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer*

As our Saviour Jesus Christ has taught us, let us pray together:  
**All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

#### **THE OFFERTORY**

*As you leave, an opportunity to make a donation for the life and ministry of St John's is available. Please give generously. This church relies on the gifts of all for its continued presence in the community.*

#### **THE BLESSING**

*The priest concludes with the blessing*

Go forth into the world in peace, be of good courage, hold fast that which is good, render to no one evil for evil, strengthen the faint hearted, support the weak, help the afflicted, give honour to all, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

*All Amen.*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All In the name of Christ. Amen.**



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**Weekly Services**

Sunday 8am Holy Communion

Sunday 10am Holy Communion with Choir

Wednesday 7pm Holy Communion

*The Parish of St. John's welcomes everyone to all services and events  
regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, race or background.*

*Order of Service from A Prayer Book for Australia 1995. Broughton Books by E.J.Dwyer (Australia) Pty Ltd, Unit 13, Perry Park, 33 Maddox Street, Alexandria, NSW 2015. © 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation. And from Common Worship 2000: Services and Prayers for the Church of England. © 2000 & New Patterns for Worship 2002 Church House Publishing.  
Additional material from Simon Rundell, Creative Ideas for Sacramental Worship with Children, Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2011.*