

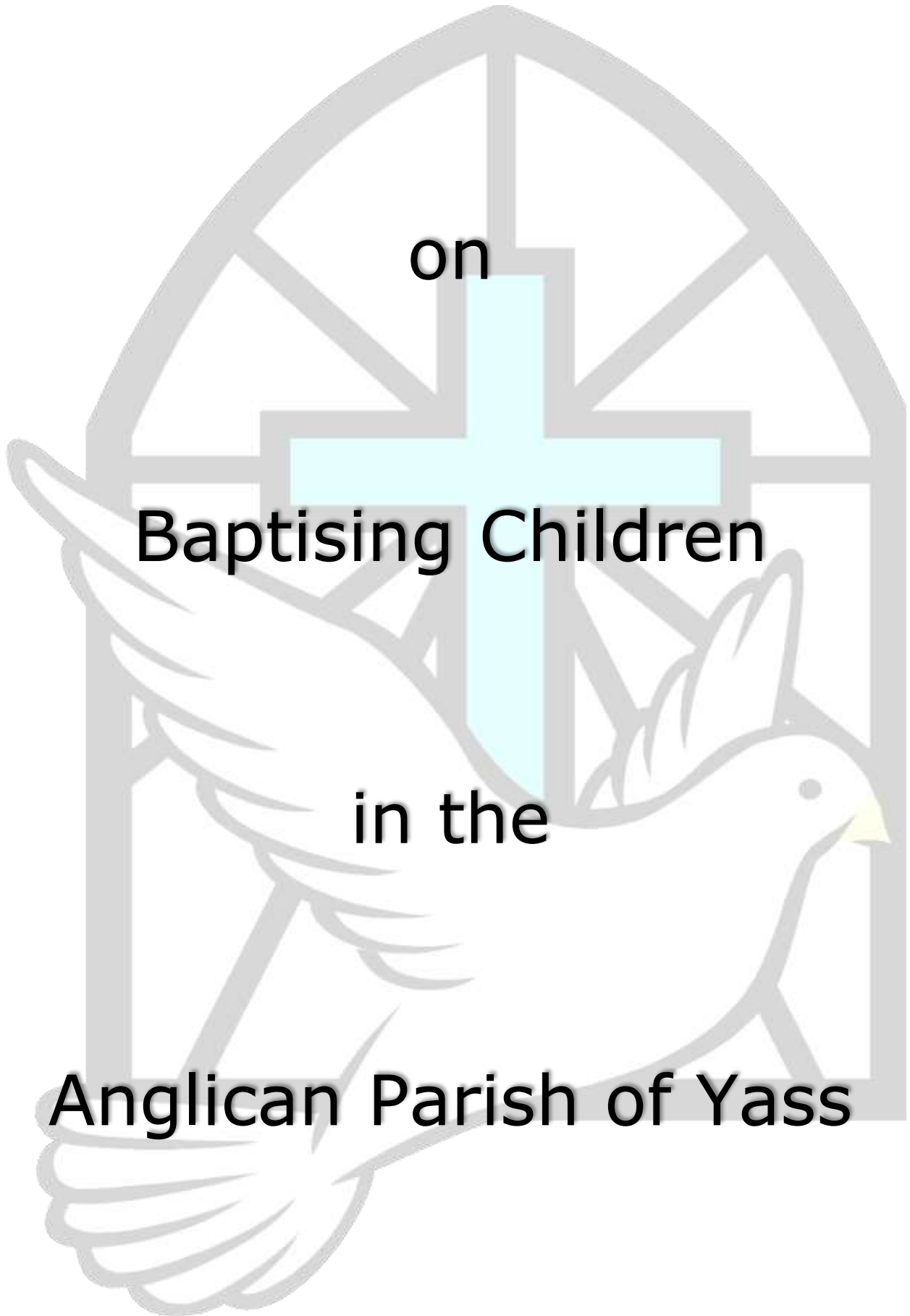
Information & Guidance

on

Baptising Children

in the

Anglican Parish of Yass



Introduction

If you are thinking about having yourself or your child baptised at one of the churches in the Yass Valley Anglican Parish, the following information will be helpful in arranging this wonderful and significant event in yours or your child's life.

We want to offer everyone an opportunity to be embraced by the love of God in Christ, to be encouraged in a greater understanding of that love, yet free from any pressure to be committed to or members of the Yass Valley Anglican Church.

However there has been a lot of confusion over the years surrounding the Baptism and Christening of children and because they are quite different it is important that we are what sort of service it is that you want for you or your child.



Choice 1 - Thanksgiving (Christening)

A christening or thanksgiving service is as the word suggests, is a special service whereby we celebrate the child's life and dedicate him/her to Christ. The focus is chiefly on prayers for the child and the parents.

This service is open to all people who wish to make some statement of faith in the Christian God but without the pressure to join the church community.

We want to offer everyone an opportunity to be embraced by the love of God in Christ, to be encouraged in a greater understanding of that love, yet free from any pressure to be committed to or members of God's church.

Therefore parents should be believers themselves or at least positively inclined towards the Christian faith. They should be prepared to make promises concerning the child's Christian upbringing. Godparents are an important part of the ceremony and should have, at the very least, some basic faith in God.

Choice 2 - Baptism

Baptism is one of the most important and significant occasions on our spiritual journey. It marks the entry into the Christian faith. Baptism is one of only two Sacraments in the Anglican church.

Baptism is the Sacrament through which a person, adult or child, is adopted by God as his child. We are baptised with water

"In the Name of the Father and the Son of the Holy Spirit",

And therefore receive all the privileges and responsibilities of a child of God and a brother or sister of Jesus, and become members of the Church. It is the beginning of the journey of eternal life.

Baptism is initiation into the Christian church.

Baptism does not make us Anglican. We are not baptized into a denomination or a building. We are baptized into Christ; into his death and resurrection, into a living relationship which we seek to live out through our life's journey.

What Happens at a Baptism

Your child's Baptism will normally be led by a Priest or Deacon from the Parish.

Children are baptised on the understanding that they will be brought up within the life of the church and that they will be taught by their parents what it means to be a Christian.

The child's parents and godparents will be asked to declare publicly that they believe in God and that they will bring the child up to follow Jesus. They will be required to answer the following questions in the name of the child:

- Will you accept the responsibility placed upon you in bringing your child for baptism?
- Are you willing to answer on behalf of your child?
- By your own prayers and example, by your friendship and love, will you encourage your child in the life and faith of the Christian community?

In the service of baptism they publically attest to their own faith in Jesus Christ by answering the following questions:

- Do you turn to Christ?
- Do you repent of your sins?
- Do you reject selfish living, and all that is false and unjust?
- Do you renounce Satan and all evil?

Parents and Godparents also promise to guide the child to the stage where he or she is able to make a public declaration of Christian faith in the presence of a bishop at the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Traditionally, a boy has two male godparents and one female godparent. A girl traditionally has two female godparents and one male godparent. However, other combinations are acceptable.

Some Frequently Asked Question

What is the right age for baptism?

There is no right age for a person to be baptised.

I'm not a regular church goer?

Baptism is about becoming a member of the local and worldwide Christian family. It is much easier to live your faith in Jesus with the support of a Christian community that will encourage you as you grow and mature in your faith.

We would obviously like you to part of our church family.

If that is not your choice you are strongly encouraged to find a church fellowship where you can feel welcomed, encouraged and supported in the Christian life.

What is the Role of a Godparent

Godparents are responsible adults who share with the parents in the privilege of bringing up the child in the Christian faith. They should be in a position where they will have a direct influence on the life of their godchild.

What does it cost?

A Baptism service is free, though you may wish to make a donation to the church.

What Next

Whatever you may feel is right for you we will be happy to discuss this wonderful service for your child.

There is nothing more life giving than a life lived in the friendship and company of Jesus.

Please provide the information on the attached form and contact:

Reverend Ken Rampling

PO Box 25 Yass NSW 2582

rector@yassvalleyanglicanchurch.org.au

02 6226 1089 (rectory)



ANGLICAN PARISH OF YASS - BAPTISM REQUEST

(Return to 17 Church Street or PO Box 25 Yass 2582)

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Location</i> | <input type="radio"/> | <i>St Clements Yass</i> | <i>Date & Time</i> |
| | <input type="radio"/> | <i>All Saints Murrumbateman</i> | |
| | <input type="radio"/> | <i>St Marys Muntoonan</i> | |
| | <input type="radio"/> | <i>St James Bowning</i> | |
| | <input type="radio"/> | <i>Other.....</i> | |

Family Details

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Name of Child</i> | <i>Date of Birth</i> |
| <i>Mothers Name</i> | |
| <i>Occupation</i> | |
| <i>Address</i> | |
| <i>Phone Numbers</i> | |
| <i>Fathers Name</i> | |
| <i>Occupation</i> | |
| <i>Address</i> | |
| <i>Phone Numbers</i> | |

Godparents

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| <i>1 Name</i> | |
| <i>Address</i> | |
| <i>Phone Numbers</i> | |
| <i>2 Name</i> | |
| <i>Address</i> | |
| <i>Phone Numbers</i> | |
| <i>3 Name</i> | |
| <i>Address</i> | |
| <i>Phone Numbers</i> | |
| <i>4 Name</i> | |
| <i>Address</i> | |
| <i>Phone Numbers</i> | |

Additional Children to be Baptised

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| <i>Name</i> | <i>Date of Birth</i> |
| <i>Name</i> | <i>Date of Birth</i> |
| <i>Name</i> | <i>Date of Birth</i> |