

So how do you celebrate and express the spiritual connection and desire for your child?

One option is...

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptism is Christ's gift. It is the sign by which the Spirit of God joins people to Jesus Christ and incorporates them into his body, the Church.

The parents of children brought for baptism are asked to declare their own Christian faith and claim their membership in the Church. It is sufficient for one parent to be a member of the Church.

The responsibility for raising children in the faith is a communal one. Therefore the Church family makes promises to support you in nurturing the faith of your children, as well as encouraging, praying for and supporting you.

The celebration of baptism always occurs within a normal service of worship. If you do not already, we invite you to participate in worship so you and the community can get to know one another.

When neither parent can make a profession of faith, they may find that the service of Thanksgiving and Blessing of a Child meets their desire at this important moment in family life.

Thanksgiving and Blessing

We believe that God is intimately involved in every part of our lives and it is good to both celebrate and ask for God's blessing.

This service is a wonderful way of celebrating your child's birth and the journey of life you are on as a family. The minister offers a prayer of thanksgiving and a special blessing is given that includes making the sign of the cross on the head, hands, and feet of your child.

You as parents dedicate yourselves to the love and care of your child and the congregation celebrates in your joy. It is our hope that at some time in your child's life, he or she will choose to be baptised.

Thanksgiving and Blessing usually occurs within a normal service of worship. While there is no expectation of membership, the gathered community of faith represents the enfolding of God's love for all people.

Beginning the Conversation

We would like to get to know you and give you the opportunity to ask questions.

Please provide the following information so we can contact you:

Mother's name: _____

Father's name: _____

Child's name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

St. Andrews by the Sea Uniting Church
92 Jetty Road, Glenelg SA 5045
(08) 8295 1771
office@standrewsuc.org.au
Minister: Rev. Christine Gilbert

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the process for baptism?

The first step is to have a conversation with the Minister of St. Andrews by the Sea Uniting Church. Together you will decide on a suitable path of spiritual formation and preparation for church membership (if needed) and baptism. The Church Council enters the conversation once a request for baptism is made and a date will be set for the special day.

What is the process for a service of thanksgiving and blessing?

As with baptism, the first step is to have a conversation with the Minister of St. Andrews. After getting to know your family, the special day is scheduled and preparations for the service begin.

Do I/we have to believe something special for baptism or a service of thanksgiving and blessing?

Baptism is a sacrament of the church. Therefore all baptisms include a profession of faith that you and the congregation say together. This profession affirms our shared belief in God, Jesus, and the Spirit. You as parents will also be asked to affirm your belief that the good news of Jesus Christ sets us free to live in life's fullness and enables us to be continually reborn in his way of faith,

hope and love. The service of thanksgiving and blessing also includes prayers and readings but, since it is not a sacrament, there is more flexibility as to its content.

What is the Uniting Church?

St. Andrews is part of the Uniting Church in Australia. The Uniting Church was formed in June 1977 as a union of three churches: the Congregational Union of Australia, the Methodist Church of Australasia and the Presbyterian Church of Australia. To learn more: <http://www.uca.org.au>



What about Godparents or sponsors?

The Uniting Church sees the community of faith as the corporate Godparents of the children who are baptised. Other family members or friends are welcome to celebrate with you but they will not be referred to as Godparents per se. Since the service of thanksgiving and blessing does not include a commitment to the Church, you can choose to include aspects of celebration that have meaning for you, such as Godparents.

Welcoming a new life...

is a wondrous time filled with a mixture of emotions. Babies bring many changes to our worlds, many of which we cannot plan for or imagine.



Thankfully we are not alone.

Along the way we are held by family and friends, midwives and nurses, neighbours and others.

St. Andrews by the Sea Uniting Church wants to be another place of support for those who wish to nurture their child in the Christian faith.