



UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA  
Congregations of St Thomas', Craigieburn and Wallan

MINISTER:

*The Rev'd Peter Weeks, 6 Plumpton Ave Craigieburn. ☎ 9308 1258 E-mail: [peterweeks1@gmail.com](mailto:peterweeks1@gmail.com)*

## BAPTISM

Baptism is the initiation of a person into the Christian Church, a community whose primary purpose is to worship God and serve Christ in the world.

It is therefore necessary that parents who want their baby baptised, or people seeking baptism for themselves, will share in worship with the congregation in which the baptism is to be lived out.

### **Preparation for baptism includes:**

- Attendance at worship, so you can at least meet the people with whom you want your child to grow.
- Careful reflection on the booklet *About Baptism*.
- Working through the content of the Service of Baptism with the Minister, taking careful note of the promises to be made (see over).
- A request to the Church Council for the baptism to take place.
- A final meeting with the Minister and Elder to rehearse the service details.

*If there are older children in the family who have been baptised, there needs to be reflection on how seriously the commitments made then have been followed up.*

*Baptism is only the beginning of a life-long involvement in the life of the Church. If the person baptised is to develop fully in the faith, the ongoing involvement and commitment by parents and the congregation is essential.*

If, after careful consideration, baptism does not seem the appropriate course of action at this time, we would still like to celebrate with you the *Service of Thanksgiving for and Blessing of a Child*.

# Questions that will be asked in the Service of Baptism:

What do you ask of God's Church for your child?

**We ask that he/she be baptised  
into the faith and family of Jesus Christ.**

The Uniting Church, in baptising children,  
takes responsibility for their instruction  
and nourishment in the faith.

That we may know that you hold the Christian faith  
and claim your membership in Christ's Church,  
we ask you:

Do you believe that in Jesus Christ, God reaches out to the world in love?

**We do**

Do you believe that in Jesus Christ, God frees us from the power of evil,  
and calls us to live in the power of hope?

**We do**

To the congregation:

Do you believe in God?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**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 again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

The Uniting Church makes  
this commitment in its *Basis  
of Union*, 7. (See Note 9.)

*It is sufficient for one parent  
to make this declaration.*

'catholic' means 'universal'

The following is asked of the parents and sponsors/godparents:

N and N, I ask you now to respond to God's graciousness to N  
by making these solemn promises:

Will you encourage N's growth within the Christian community,  
guiding him/her through participation in the worship,  
nurture and fellowship of the Church to a mature Christian faith?  
*With God's help, we will.*

Will you, by word and example, teach him/her the way of Christ  
until the Spirit draws him/her to make his/her own response in faith and love?  
*With God's help, we will.*