

Adult Baptism

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Thank you for your interest in being baptised at Lisburn Cathedral.

This could be the beginning of an important step in your faith!

Jesus told the disciples to go out into all the world - locally, nationally & internationally - making disciples & baptising them in the name of the Father, the Son & the Holy Spirit, so baptism forms an important occasional part of our services throughout the year.



We love when Christian parents bring their children for baptism, but we also love to see Christian adults, who have not yet been baptised, coming to be marked with the sign of the cross.

Please read this document carefully & prayerfully, so that we can talk about it together soon.

WE NEED BAPTISED BECAUSE...

1. We need God's forgiveness

Water is used to symbolise washing. Just as we need water to remove dirt from our bodies, so we need inner, spiritual cleansing.

This washing, or forgiveness of our sins, is offered to us by God through the death of His Son Jesus. The apostle Peter tells us that this is possible because Jesus "bore our sins" on the cross. We are called to admit our need of forgiveness & receive it from Jesus!

2. We need new birth

Water is also used as a symbol in the New Testament (Romans 6:4) to suggest someone dying from an old way of life & then being raised to a new life.

Baptism symbolises the end of a self-centred life - in which God is rejected - the beginning of a new life with God at the centre. This shows our need of being 'born again' - Jesus says unless a person is born again he/she cannot enter the Kingdom of God... We are born again when we ask Jesus to forgive us & come into our lives.

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WHAT'S BAPTISM ALL ABOUT?

Baptism was practiced by the Jews in the Old Testament, when a non-Jew wanted to become marked as one of God's chosen people, they were initiated by baptism. From then on, their children, now being born into a Jewish family, would have been circumcised as a mark of their identity as one of God's people. In the New Testament, John the Baptist offered a baptism of repentance as a preparation for the coming of the Messiah, & later Jesus instituted baptising as a way that the Church should mark new disciples.

We believe baptism to be a symbol or signpost pointing to the really important things that God does in our lives, when we turn to him, such as forgiveness, new birth & eternal life.

WHAT HAPPENS IN THE SERVICE?

In the service of baptism at the Cathedral, we use the Book of Common Prayer, & you will be asked questions regarding your commitment to faith such as:

- Do you turn to Christ?
- Do you then renounce the Devil & all his works?
- Will you obey & serve Christ?

Although the answers are provided for you in the book, it is important that you think through the questions, so that you can give the answers truthfully before the Church & before God.

Once you have read this document, and had time to consider it, please contact the the clergy to discuss the possibility baptism.

A PRAYER FOR BAPTISM CANDIDATES

God our Father,

Thank you for the gift of Jesus & for how his death & resurrection has brought meaning and purpose to my life.

Be with me as I consider baptism, teach me, convict me and move me, so that I can truly say: I have decided to follow Jesus, my Savior and Lord

Amen