

Christian nurture of the child they have made promises on behalf of.

**BAPTISM IS** - What makes you a Christian, it confers the Holy Spirit on you, it makes you a member of the Church. It is therefore a big step and an important commitment. Parents are the most important religious educators their child will ever meet. Holy Trinity Avonside will contact you from time to time to invite you to parish events that will help you to raise your children as Christians.

**ADULT BAPTISM** - These days some folk join the Church as adults having come to faith in their mature years. They make the baptismal promises on behalf of themselves. Their baptism is preceded by a period of instruction in the faith. These baptisms are a great encouragement to all those who witness them. Since worship is a normal and indispensable part of Christian living these committed folk show what baptism is all about. For the first few generations of the Church's life all baptisms were adult baptisms.

#### **CONTACT DETAILS** -

Please contact the Reverend Hugh Bowron at:

The Church of the Most Holy Trinity  
Parish of Avonside  
P O Box 32 066  
168 Stanmore Road  
Christchurch 8147

Phone: 389 6948

E mail: [office@holytrinityavonside.co.nz](mailto:office@holytrinityavonside.co.nz)

(Parents are asked to cut off and retain this page and give the other to the Vicar.)

## **Diocese of Christchurch**



### **I AM GLAD YOU ARE BRINGING YOUR CHILD TO BE BAPTISED**

#### **A message from the Bishop of Christchurch**

You want your children to grow up as Christians. Baptism is the first step because then God receives them and sets them among the People of God in the Church.

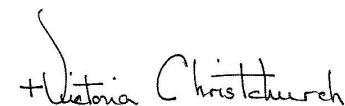
If your child is to grow up as a Christian, the process should continue and it is your responsibility to see that it does. The Church in your parish will help through youth programmes, through its worship and its fellowship. I hope you will use this help.

It is important that you encourage your children by your example of honest Christian living and devoted Church attendance. Baptism confers full membership of the Church, and therefore all may receive Holy Communion from the time of their Baptism. Talk to your Vicar about this.

Some day they will be old enough to take on this responsibility for themselves. They will then be challenged to express this in Confirmation.

God bless you as you and your family set out together to live a Christian life.

Victoria Matthews



## Request for the Baptism of a Child

Parish of .....

Date of child's birth .....

Date of Baptism (to be decided after consultation with the clergy) .....

Christian name(s) of child .....

Father's full name .....

Mother's full name .....

Address .....

Phone.....

Email.....

Father's Occupation .....

Mother's Occupation .....

Full names of Godparents or sponsors (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms). There should be a least one. Have they been baptised?

1. ....

2.....

3. ....

**DATE AND TIME** - The date and time of the Baptism should be settled with the Vicar. This should be done before any other arrangements in connection with the Baptism are made.

**THE NEXT STEP** - After you have contacted us a member of our parish staff, usually the Vicar, will come to visit you in your home. In the case of an infant baptism he will want to meet both parents. The visit will be about getting to know each other, making the arrangements for the baptism, and about explaining what baptism is all about.

**REHEARSAL** - We have a rehearsal, usually the day before the baptism, at the Church to make sure that we are all familiar with and comfortable with our parts in the Service. It is very helpful if the Godparents can also attend the rehearsal.

**PUBLIC BAPTISM** - Baptisms at Holy Trinity Avonside take place at the 9.30 am Sunday Service, our main Service. This is so the congregation can meet its new member, and they and their family can meet the community they have joined. Baptism is about joining the community of Christian faith, and about receiving full membership rights in the Church. This is why it is important that this initiation rite is a public event, and it is why the Anglican Church no longer has private baptisms. The baptism takes place right at the start of the Service, signifying that this is the entry into the adventure of Christian living.

**PARENTS** - At least one parent should be baptised. The expectation is that the parents are married.

**GODPARENTS** - Godparents should be baptised members of the Christian Church, although they don't necessarily have to be Anglicans. They should be people who practice their faith in their lives, and who take an active part in the life of the Church. This will equip them for their main role of being responsible for the