

Baptism by full immersion in water is a significant day for a Christian. It is a day which you do not forget, a day when the whole church celebrates with you.

It is a public declaration that we are choosing to follow Jesus. Just as he was baptised, so we too choose to be baptised. We have decided to copy him and follow his example. It is clear that the New Testament church also baptised their new believers. They regarded it as a clear instruction from God. (See Acts 2:38)

The act of baptism is symbolic of the cleansing of our lives that has been accomplished through Jesus and the cleansing that is continuing by his Spirit.

But it is also a grave! The New Testament (Romans 6:4) describes baptism as being buried with Christ in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead, we too might begin a new life.

It is an opportunity to celebrate God's grace and to speak of the reality of our experience of God in our lives.

If you would like to consider baptism, speak to one of the elders and they will tell you about the next available baptism preparation class.

#### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### I was baptised as an infant. Isn't that enough?

You can still be baptised now as a believer. In fact we see baptism as something that is specifically for those who believe Jesus. It has nothing to do with what our parents believed or did.

# Should I wait till I sort out all my life's problems?

The bible teaches that two things must occur before baptism – repentance and believing. There is no requirement that we should be "good enough"

## What if my story is not as dramatic as some that we hear?

Every person's story is different and, as long as you believe what Jesus has done for you, your story is as good as anyone else's.

### Do I have to speak in front of the whole church?

You should understand that the whole church is encouraged by every person who announces that they are following Jesus. So go ahead and encourage them. If you really feel menaced by the idea, you might consider writing it down, getting a friend to help you or even arranging for your story to be told by video.