

# baptism

## Donations for Baptisms

There is no fee charged for baptisms that take place during service times, however donations are always gratefully received for the growth of the church through baptismal ministry.

## Connecting God... ...Connecting You

To keep the "God-connection" alive, and in our effort to be an *invitational* community, we are also developing ways of 'being church' that we hope will meet people where they are in life.

## Small Groups

Whether for faith deepening, pastoral support, or social contact, groups have been created for anyone to come into at anytime. Check the parish website [www.grovelyanglican.org.au](http://www.grovelyanglican.org.au) for current offerings.

## Rites of the church and pastoral matters

For inquiries about weddings, funerals, confirmation, or any pastoral issues, please contact the parish office.

## Regular Services

### St Matthew's

35 Church Road, Mitchelton

### All Saints'

86 Cobbity Crescent, Arana Hills

### SUNDAYS

7 am Eucharist, St Matthew's  
9 am Sung Eucharist, All Saints'  
(with Sunday School during school term)

### WEDNESDAYS

10 am Eucharist, St Matthew's

### SATURDAYS

6 pm Vigil Eucharist, St Matthew's

## Contact Information

### Parish Office

(downstairs at All Saints Church)

p: 3851 0526

e: [office@grovelyanglican.org.au](mailto:office@grovelyanglican.org.au)

m: PO Box 452, Ferny Hills Q 4055

## A guide for parents and godparents



## ANGLICAN PARISH OF GROVELY

The Churches and People of  
St Matthew's, Mitchelton & All Saints, Arana Hills

## What is baptism?

On the surface, baptism is a simple ceremony of washing in water. Christians have practised baptism since the earliest times, using water from varied sources, from rivers to cups.

The answer to what Baptism *really is*, is what we believe – that the baptised become part of the Christian family, the Church. It is therefore the most important thing we do; it continues to create God's family on earth. And it is a most joyful occasion; we celebrate God's love for your child, expressed through the faith of God's family.

What we believe is also expressed through the symbols used in baptism.

## Symbols used in baptism

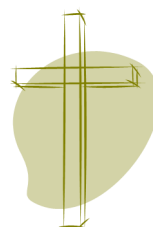
### Water

Water, the symbol and reality of all life, is used in Baptism to indicate new life in Christ and cleansing from sin, our 'old life.'



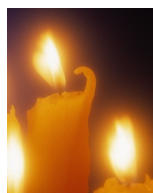
### The sign of the cross in oil

Oil of Chrism (Christ) is used to anoint the just-Baptised with the sign of the cross. This sets us apart for God's call on our life in the world.



### Candles and light

The newly baptised receive the light of Christ through the symbolism of their baptismal candle being lit from the Easter candle. The baptised then carry Christ's light into all the world.



## The Promises of Baptism

*made by Parents and Godparents for the child*

In bringing their child for Baptism, parents are joining with God in the responsibility of developing the full potential of their loved child. The parents will nominate Godparents who are also prepared to nurture and care for their child in this way as well.

Part of that responsibility, for parents and Godparents, is carrying the Baptismal Promises on behalf of the infant/child until they are of an age to *confirm* their own baptismal promises.

The parents and Godparents of the child will first be asked three questions:

Will you accept the responsibilities placed upon you in bringing *this child* for baptism? **I will.**

Are you willing to answer on behalf of *this child*? **I am.**

By your own prayers and example, by your friendship and love, will you encourage *this child* in the life and faith of the Christian community? **I will, with God's help.**

The parents and Godparents will then be asked to make a statement of faith. You will need to think carefully about your life, your own need of God, and your desire to explore and follow Christ's way. You will need to accept your failures and to ask God for forgiveness and strength.

Do you turn to Christ? **I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins? **I repent of my sins.**

Do you reject selfish living, and all that is false and unjust? **I reject them all.**

And so the journey continues, in a new way! It is a joyful, exciting time, to join the huge family of the baptised of God.

## Godparents: special people

We always advise parents to choose Godparents who you know will be part of your child's life regularly, and who are willing to undertake this special responsibility. There are no 'rules' for how many or what gender; usually three are chosen.

It is a great privilege to be a Godparent, and a great joy to undertake this special spiritual nurturing of your Godchild. We encourage Godparents, and parents, to take seriously their responsibility of being with their Godchild in exploring faith through and in a Christian community. Godparents themselves are to be baptised Christians.

## Parents, their children, and the church

At Grovely Parish, we understand Baptism to be the most significant rite of the Church, God's people. The community will travel with families through the process of baptism, including preparation through:

## Baptism Preparation

A baptismal information session for parents and Godparents is arranged with the Parish Priest. This is a relaxed time of going through the service, exploring some aspects of the spirituality of children, and being able to ask questions. Further information is included with the baptismal application form.

## Baptism Process in the Parish

1. Contact the Parish Office to make an appointment with the Parish Priest.
2. Return the application form to the parish office.
3. Time and date is set.
4. You are encouraged to continue or start attending Grovely Parish prior to the Baptism. This allows us both to get to know our families.