

# Getting baptised?

We are so thrilled that you have decided to make a public proclamation of your faith through baptism. Baptism isn't for perfect people, it is for those who place their faith in a perfect Saviour. This document provides a simple guide to help you prepare for the day.

## How to prepare

- **Be informed** about the meaning and significance of baptism at <https://kenmore.church/baptism>.
- **Be praying:** Seek God for opportunities to share your faith and invite people to your baptism.
- **Invite as many friends and family** as possible to share in your special day. They will be welcomed and offered good seats at the front.
- **Confirm with the church office** the day and time scheduled for your baptism.
- **If you are giving a talk or testimony**, spend some time writing it out fully. Testimonies should be short enough to fit on a single A4 page. If possible, include the following three themes:
  1. What was your life like before you met Jesus;
  2. How you met Jesus;
  3. What has changed since then.
- **Clothing:** For the baptism, we recommend wearing a dark shirt and some shorts suitable for being wet. Bring a spare set of clothes into which you can change immediately after the baptism.
- Bring a towel!

## What happens on the day?

- **Arrive at the church** service that day 30 minutes early. Connect with the person baptising you and they will show you where to store clothes, get changed, and what will happen during baptism.
- You will be called up on the stage with your friend and you will both step together into the pool.
- Your friend will then ask: *"Have you placed your faith in Jesus Christ to save you?"* You say *"I have"*
- Place your hands on your chest, and your friend will have a hand at your back and over your hands, helping you lean back under the water fully.
- As you come up, they will pray a blessing over your life, then help you out of the water.

## What to expect afterwards

It is not unusual for those baptised to experience a few doubts or emotional low-points in the days to follow. It is such a significant and public moment, our emotions naturally wane, so don't be worried if that occurs. Some people seem to also experience a few extra challenges or relational frustrations etc. This may be our enemy Satan attempting to frustrate your faith and closeness to God. Again, don't be concerned, but recognise it and stand firm in your faith and testimony. **Next-steps:** Consider joining a small group or team at church!

# Baptising someone?

It is a great privilege to baptise someone – to do so plays a special part in their life and yours.

It helps to be confident of what to do and say on the day, so you and the one being baptised can be relaxed and focused on such a special moment.

## How to prepare

- **Arrive at the church** service 30 minutes early. Connect with the person you are baptising and show them where to go and what to expect.
- Bring suitable clothes (black preferred) and towel plus a change of other clothes to get into afterwards.
- Talk to the person directing the service to confirm when the baptism will take place.
- Show the person how you will stand in the pool, and how you will be baptising them.

## What to do and say during the baptism

- When called to the stage – accompany the person, and step into the pool ahead of them.
- Ensure the person has their back to the stairs in the pool, while you stand ready to support them.
- Place the person's hands on their chest, placing your right hand over theirs and your left at their back.
- Ask them simply ***"Have you placed your faith in Jesus Christ to save you?"*** They say ***"I have"***
- Before you baptise the person say: ***"Based on your confession, I baptise you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit"***.
- Lean them back gently backwards under the water fully immersed, then assist them to rise up.
- Then, pray a blessing over their life, and help them up the stairs and out of the water.
- Lead them to the place where you and they will change into dry clothes.