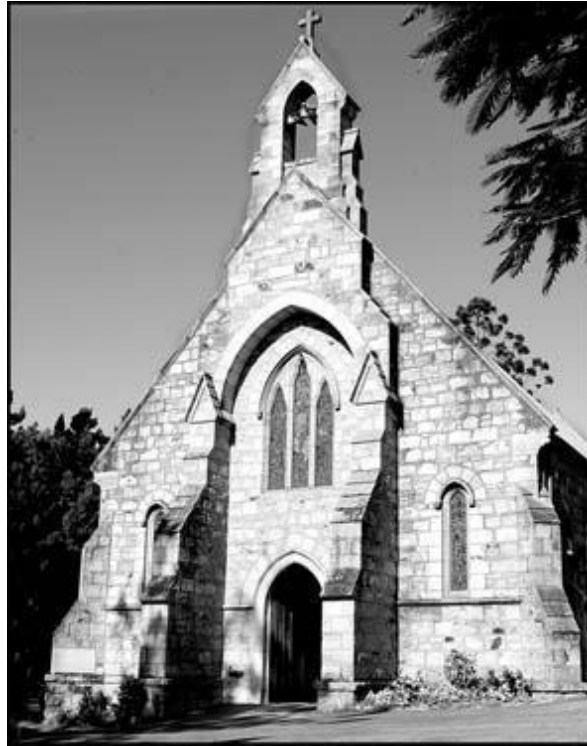


**THE SACRAMENT OF  
HOLY  
BAPTISM**



**Saint Mary the Virgin Church  
Kangaroo Point**

**The Anglican Church of Australia**

## **What is Baptism?**

Baptism marks the beginning of Christian life within the worldwide Church. The Church baptises in response to Jesus' command to his Apostles in the Gospel of Saint Matthew 28:19

*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit”*

Through Baptism we enter into the loving relationship that exists between God and his people through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a starting point directed towards growth in the faith community (Church).

Baptism is the ceremony which transfers and acknowledges the gift from God of an inward and spiritual grace to the person who receives it. That gift brings many blessings.

1. The blessing of a new life of belonging to God
2. The blessing of a new life enlivened and guided by the Holy Spirit
3. The blessing of new life enfolded in the love and life of Jesus Christ.

## **What happens at a Baptism?**

Those requesting Baptism are acknowledging a need to engage with God and commit themselves and their children to his love. The Baptism service identifies this as a calling, a turning point, a new beginning. It recognizes the commitment of God to his people and them to him through his Son – Jesus Christ. Those to be Baptised, parents, godparents and the faith community come together as participants in the exchange of these promises. The Church uses tangible things to help us understand the mystery and sacredness of what is taking place. In Baptism these are water, the signing of the cross, oil and candles.

## **The Signs and Symbols of Baptism**

### ***Water***

The word baptise comes from the Greek and is associated with the dipping into or pouring over of water as an act of cleansing. In Baptism, water is used to symbolize the purifying change that comes with forgiveness and the promise of support and nourishment in a new life as members of the faith community of the Risen Christ.

The water is blessed to signify the sacred nature of its pouring onto the head of the Baptised in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

### ***The sign of the Cross***

A sign on something shows its origin or ownership. The sign of the cross is the mark of Christians for Jesus who died on the cross. It is traced with the thumb on the forehead to show that the Baptised belongs to Christ and His Church.

### ***Oil***

Oil of Baptism is also known as Oil of Chrism. It is a mixture of oil and balsam and has been blessed by the bishop. It is used to signify the gifts of the Holy Spirit. In his letter to the Galatians, Saint Paul indicates that the Spirit brings love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility and self-control (Galatians 5:22).

### ***Candles***

Candles symbolize Christ the Light of the World. In Baptism a candle is lit from the Paschal or Easter Candle which stands near the altar at Easter as a sign of the Risen Christ and is given as a reminder that the Light of Christ has entered the life of the newly Baptised. Its flame symbolizes the faith which will burn through the life of the Baptised

### **Baptism and Parents**

The ceremony of Baptism reflects the love parents have for their children, in wanting all that is good for them. God shows love in the same way as loving parents by signs and gestures. The ceremony of Baptism is full of them. The most important of them is the pouring of water in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. This sign reminds us that as a child is born of the love and in the likeness of parents, so are we born of the love of God and recreated in his image. This opens the way for growth of the spiritual along side the physical nature. That is why in Baptism parents, along with godparents and the faith community, accept responsibility for nurturing the child in the faith. This means being actively involved in a faith community and thus encouraging and teaching the child by example what it means to be Baptised.

### **Baptism and Godparents**

In the past godparents have fulfilled two major roles: as additional members of the extended family providing support and care, and as sponsors for Baptism. It is a common misconception that godparents become legal guardians. This is not true. Godparents are usually valued and trusted friends of the family. They themselves need to be Baptised members of the Church and be able to give a good example of Christian living to their godchild. They are asked if they will seek God's support in their responsibilities through prayer, through following Christ's teaching and through seeking forgiveness when they fail. They are asked to affirm their belief in the Faith.

### **Baptism and the Community of Faith**

When a child or an adult is Baptised in the midst of the faith community, it is a powerful act of welcome and witness into the Faith. It reminds the members of their own Baptism and of their responsibilities to support and nurture the newly Baptised. It also reminds them of the dynamic nature of the community.

### **Offering**

There is *no fee* for Baptism – but parents often wish to make a special – *Thanksgiving offering* to celebrate and acknowledge this significant occasion. An envelope is supplied if you wish to use it for this purpose. The envelope can be placed in the offertory bag on the day of the Baptism.

### **Baptism Seminar**

The parents will be invited and expected to attend a Baptism Seminar. These are held at St Mary's, on a Saturday morning at 9.30 - 11.00am. Once your baptism is booked and confirmed you will be sent an invitation to the seminar.

**Baptisms at St Mary's are held on the first Sunday of every month.  
Up to 3 baptisms can be incorporated in the 9am Eucharist service,  
and up to 5 baptisms at the 11am service.**

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## **A History of St. Mary's**

The Parish of Kangaroo Point dates from 1847. In 1849 the first Anglican church, a wooden slab building, was built in John Street (now Rotherham Street). The first services were taken by Archdeacon Glennie of The Downs. The first rector was Rev. Bodenham.

On 11 December 1849 the Crown granted additional land for "Church, School and Parsonage in the Episcopalian Church of England". The land was opposite the present Scott Street.

By the late 1860's a larger church was needed but the granted land was unsuitable as it was prone to flooding. One half of the granted land was exchanged for the present site. Invitations to erect the new church designed by architect R.G. Suter, were invited in September 1871 with the "cost not to exceed 700 pounds." The foundation stone was laid on 29 April 1872 and construction was completed in 1873 by the builder Alfred Grant. On 5 November 1873 Edward Wyndham Tufnell, the first Bishop of Brisbane, consecrated the building, the Rector was Rev. G.A. Court. In 1872 a further part of the granted land opposite Scott Street was sold to help finance the new church.

The old church in John Street was blown down in 1878 and the land was sold to fund the building of a hall on the new site. The hall was opened on St Andrew's Day, 1879. In 1887 the building of a rectory was planned. Construction was completed in about 1889.

On 2 April 1892 a cyclone caused substantial damage to the church, particularly the roof and belfry. The church was rededicated on 25 February 1893 after repairs. Around 1921 the timber shingle roof was replaced with ribbed galvanized iron.

The pipe organ, Queensland's oldest, was installed in 1876. Dating from at least 1823, the organ was built by H.C. Lincoln, (Organ Builder to the king, London) and contains some pipes from the 1690's.

The Warriors' Chapel was dedicated on St George's Day 1950. It recalls that St Mary's was the Naval Chapel for Queensland. The chapel contains the British and Australian Ensigns and a memorial to those who died in HMAS Voyager in 1964.

St Mary's Church was built on the present site in Main Street in 1873 and remains one of two existing church buildings in Queensland designed by Richard George Suter. The church is listed by the National Trust of Queensland and has been placed on the Register of the National Estate. The rectory, hall and grounds have been nominated for listing by the Trust and Heritage Commission.

The church is an elegant example of an 1870's stone church. It is built of roughly dressed Brisbane tuff, coursed random rubble, unplastered internally and externally, with a timber floor and roof structure. The roof is clad with ribbed galvanized iron. The general style is Gothic Revival with buttresses and pointed arches.