

Your Baptism in Burry Port



The Vicarage
Cae Ffwrnnes
Burry Port
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SA16 0FW

What is Baptism?

From the earliest days of the Christian Church, Baptism has been the way in which people become Christians and full members of the Church. The Gospels tell us that Jesus himself was baptized by John the Baptist in the River Jordan and that he in turn taught his disciples to go out into the world and baptize, making disciples of all nations. Jesus teaches his people that all who would enter his kingdom must be born again of water and the Spirit. Baptism is the special sign and seal of this new birth.

Christian Initiation has three important elements – baptism itself, confirmation, and becoming a part of the worshipping family of the Church, in which Christians regularly receive Holy Communion, the body and blood of Christ.

Those who are baptized as children must be nurtured in faith, sustained by prayer, and welcomed into the worshipping and serving life of the Church and later be brought to Confirmation (by the Bishop). But when individuals are able to answer for themselves their entry into the family of the Church should be through one act of initiation where Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist (Holy Communion), together express the:

- turning away from darkness and sin,
- the turning to Christ,
- the washing in the waters of baptism,
- the laying on of hands by the Bishop
- the participation in the Eucharistic family of the Church.

Baptism should normally take place in church during the Eucharist. Water is poured over the head of the candidate for baptism three times in the Name of the God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Where it is possible, those who are older may be baptized by submersion or immersion in a body of water such as a baptismal pool. The act of baptism signifies our participation in the death of Jesus and

in his Resurrection. As he died and was buried, we symbolically go down into the water of baptism with him. And as he rose from the dead, we symbolically come away from the water in his risen power, made new. For this reason baptism is often known as the Easter Sacrament and has special meaning when it occurs at Easter after a period of preparation through the season of Lent. (The parish prefers not to baptize during this season).

The Baptism of Children

When we decide to baptize our children, it is of the utmost importance that the responsibilities of both the parents and Godparents are carried out conscientiously. Whilst remembering them on the Birthdays and at Christmas can be important, the actual vows that we make on the day of the baptism are more focused on the following:

- teaching children to say their prayers
- reading Bible stories to them
- Bringing them to worship in the church
- Loving and supporting them

It is important in choosing Godparents to ask people who will carry out these duties to the best of their ability. I am often asked why people who are not baptized can not be Godparents. It is for the simple reason that. Logically speaking, only a person who is a Christian themselves can aid and assist someone else in their Christian life.

Provision for Children in the Church

The Church in both Burry Port and Pwll make provision for children and their nurture a priority in their regular worship. Do ask about Sunday Club and encourage your children to go along by taking them. The Burry Port Sunday School runs alongside the main Eucharist on Sunday at 10.30 in St Mary's and the Pwll Sunday Club meets in the Church Hall at 10.30 – 12.00 on a Sunday Morning.

From the Vicar of Burry Port...

Whilst the gift of life might not exactly be a blank canvas – from the moment we are born our lives are influenced by circumstances, people and many other different factors (many of which are beyond our control) - we all have some degree of influence over the contribution that we make to the painting which is our life.

Whether we are brought into the world through wealth or poverty, love or hate, each of us is faced with the decision of what we will make of that life; what will influence the decisions we make, what will form the moral bedrock of what we are or do; how we might bring up our children if we are given the blessing of being parents.

Baptism or Christening is about saying *Yes* to God. It is about making God, as revealed in Jesus, the centre of my life and the biggest influence in the way that I live my life. Baptism is the beginning of a relationship with the living God in which we discover, day by day, what we believe is the ultimate purpose of life itself; sacrificial love.

With looking forward to your Baptism

Wishing you every blessing

R. Paul Davies

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Questions Frequently Asked

What will I have to do during the baptism?

Those to be baptised (or parents and god-parents) stand around the font with the priest and join in making the promises of baptism (you respond to the questions put to you by the priest)

Do you turn to Christ?

turn to Christ.

Do you repent of your sin?

repent of my sin.

Do you renounce evil?

renounce evil.

Do you believe and trust in God who made the world?

believe and trust in him.

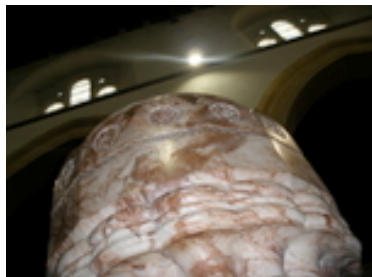
Do you believe in Jesus Christ who redeems humanity?

believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit who gives life to the people of God?

believe and trust in him.

You do not have to learn any of this. It will be on a card which you will follow and the priest will guide you through the promises in the service.



What does a baptism cost?

There is no charge at all for Holy Baptism. It is the free gift of God's grace. It is, however, expected that all Christian people contribute to the mission and ministry of the church and there will always be provision in a Eucharist or baptism for a collection / retiring collection.

When do baptisms take place?

Baptisms should take place in the Parish Eucharist on a Sunday morning so that the whole Christian community can welcome the baptised in the principle act of Christian worship. There are, however, occasions when a baptism is more appropriate on a Sunday afternoon. Afternoon baptisms generally take place on the first Sunday of the month in Burry Port and on the second Sunday in Pwll. The Vicar prefers not to baptise during the season of Lent (The 40 days before Easter), which is traditionally a time of preparation for Baptism.



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Your Baptism



in St Mary's

*The Parish Church
of Burry Port*