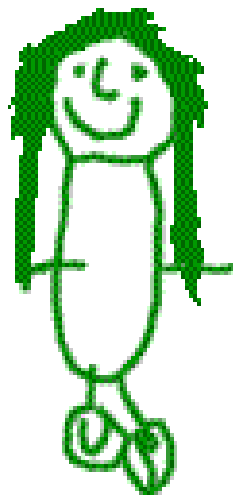


Henty Presbyterian Church



CHURCH BAPTISM & HOME BLESSING



The birth of a child is an exciting event. It causes us to think about issues concerning our child's future and our role as parents in their future. All parents want what is best for their child's physical, social, emotional, mental and spiritual development. We are sure that such desires have motivated you to enquire about Baptism for your child as you are concerned for your child's spiritual well being.

The Henty Presbyterian Church is happy to serve the needs of both you and your child by offering, where appropriate, either a Church Baptism or a Home Blessing. A Church Baptism is appropriate for the children of active and professing members, or regular and diligent attendees, of the Henty Presbyterian Church. Where this is not the case, and parents are not able or willing to undertake the responsibilities that Baptism entails, a Home Blessing can be given

CHURCH BAPTISM

Baptism is a Christian ceremony for parents where one or both parents are active and professing members of the Christian Church. In the Baptism of their child parents express their joy at what God has done for them in Jesus. He has, through his death on the cross, made it possible for them to receive God's forgiveness and to become members of the people of God. In grateful thanks for Jesus these parents live their lives for him; his priorities become their priorities. In bringing their

child for Baptism such parents express their faith and trust in Jesus. They bring their child for Baptism so that their child might receive the sign of God's people which is Baptism.

Baptism does not give the child a name. Baptism does not make them a Christian or wash away their sin. Baptism simply proclaims what is already true for the family, namely, that they are vital and active members of God's family and that they want to raise their child as part of that family in the context of the Henty Presbyterian Church which is their local church.

Baptism, therefore, is not for everyone. Certain obligations are incurred in presenting one's child for baptism and these obligations are demonstrated in the promises or vows that are made at the Baptism. These are vows made to God in public Sunday worship and before the congregation of which the parents are active members.

THE VOWS

The minister shall then say to the parents who shall stand:

✠ Who is your Lord and Saviour?

Response:

Jesus Christ is my Lord and Saviour.

✠ Do you trust in the righteousness of Christ alone for your salvation?

Response:

I do.

✠ Do you promise to obey him?

Response:

I do.

Our Lord Jesus has commanded us to teach those whom we baptise in His name.

✠ Do you promise to teach N..... from the Scriptures how to trust in Christ as *his/her* Saviour and to follow him as Lord?

Response:

I do.

✠ Do you promise to pray for N....., and to set *him/her* a godly example in your actions, that, by God's grace, *he* may be a faithful follower of our Lord Jesus Christ all *his/her* days?

Response:

I do.

✠ As part of your godly example, do you promise to be regular and diligent in meeting with God's people on the Lord's Day?

Response: **I do.**

Then the minister shall say:

The Lord bless you and your child and graciously enable you to keep these promises.

Then, addressing the congregation, he shall say:

This sacrament lays special responsibilities upon you, the people of God. Will you be faithful to your calling as members of the Church of Christ, so that, by God's grace, this child may grow up in the knowledge and love of Christ?

If you accept this responsibility, please say: **I will.**

HOME BLESSING

If you are not a regular and involved member of the Henty Presbyterian Church then Baptism is not a viable option for you. An alternative is for you and your child to have a Home

Blessing. The minister is available, for those who live in Henty or its adjacent towns, to come to a family gathering in your home and carry out a Home Blessing.

This is a simple informal service consisting of a Bible reading and prayer for you and your child. It is a time of thanksgiving for the birth of your child and a seeking of God's blessing on your child's future health and welfare. The minister will pray for God's strength and blessing to assist you in your parenting

This can be a meaningful time for you, your family and friends as you celebrate with joy the birth of your child. Later on, should you want to express your commitment to Jesus by joining the local church as active members, you could then seek baptism for your child.

You might like, at some future time, to become involved in the Henty Presbyterian Church by bringing your child to Church and to our special Sunday morning activities for children. We are always available and very happy to assist you with the spiritual nurture of your child.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

CHURCH BAPTISM

QUESTION

"What if we are members of another church but want the Baptism done at Henty?"

A. *Baptism also involves the local congregation as they, too, make*

promises to assist in the spiritual growth of your child. That is why your child should be baptised in the local parish church of which you are an active member.

QUESTION

“When is a child too old to be baptised?”

A. *There is no set age for baptism. People may be baptised at any age. Adults, who come to Christian faith late in life are able, provided they have not been previously baptised, to be baptised.*

QUESTION

“Can we have a private Baptism in the church?”

A. *The Presbyterian Church only does baptisms at public worship. The congregation is a vital part of Baptism as they are part of the Christian family of your child.*

QUESTION

“Can we have God parents?”

A. *Some churches, such as the Anglican and Roman Catholic Church, have God parents as part of Baptism. The Presbyterian Church does not have this practice. If you have some special friends you wish to include when you take your vows that would be fine with us but it is the parents of the child who are required to take the Baptismal vows.*

HOME BLESSING

QUESTION

“Does the Home Blessing have to take place on a Sunday?”

A. *No; it can take place at any mutually agreeable time.*

QUESTION

“How long does the Home Blessing service take?”

A. *The actual service would usually only take a few minutes.*

QUESTION

“Can I still call my child a Presbyterian if they receive a Home Blessing and are not baptised?”

A. *You certainly can and you are encouraged to do so.*

QUESTION

“If my child has received a Home Blessing, can I enrol my child in Presbyterian Scripture at school or send them to Presbyterian Sunday School?”

A. *That would be fine. We will love to have them and will do our best to give them spiritual nurture.*

QUESTION

“What is the charge for a Church Baptism or a Home Blessing?”

A. *There is no charge. This is a free service given by the Henty Presbyterian Church*

LIKE TO KNOW MORE?

If you are interested in finding out more about being an active and involved Christian at the Henty Presbyterian Church, or if you are interested in proceeding with a Church Baptism or a Home Blessing, please contact the Church Office on **69293129** between the hours of **10:00am** and **4:00pm, Tuesday to Friday**. An appointment can be made with **Craig Nicholas**, the minister, so that you can discuss the matter further.