



Kensington Eastlakes Anglican Church  
*(Incorporating St Stephen's Eastlakes & St Martin's Kensington)*

## Baptism Information

Thank you for your enquiry about getting baptised (or having your child baptised) at our church. We would love to meet with you sometime and chat to you further about this. Here is some information that may assist you.

### **Section 1: Our Church**

Our church is the result of a merging of two parishes just over 20 years ago. We are the Anglican Church for the inner south and east Sydney suburbs of Kensington, Rosebery, Eastlakes and Mascot.

We meet in two different venues on a Sunday morning:

- 9am at St Stephen's Eastlakes (6 Harry Street)
- 10:30am at St Martin's Kensington (105 Todman Avenue)

Our members are of all different ages and backgrounds but share a common faith in Jesus. We strive to be a friendly and welcoming church. Throughout the week some of our members meet together in 'Growth Groups' to study the bible together and various other groups meet each week at the church. We run a music themed playgroup called 'Junior Jivers' on Friday mornings at Kensington (9:30-11:30am).

### **Section 2: The Baptism of Teenagers and Adults**

Teenagers and adults that would like to be baptised are expected to be members of our church that attend on a regular basis. Those under 18 need permission from parents - so our minister will contact the parents to ensure they are happy for their child to be baptised.

Generally, the preparation for baptism involves participation in a small group course that our minister runs twice a year (Alpha or Christianity Explored). Both courses examine the basics of the Christian faith and allow opportunities for questions and discussion.

Unless there are special circumstances involved, baptisms generally take place in our Sunday morning services.

### **Section 3: The Baptism of Children**

One of the beliefs and practices of the Anglican Church is that the baptism of the children of Christian parents is to be encouraged. Sometimes this is referred to as a 'Christening.' There is no set age that this should occur (sometimes 3 month old children are baptised and sometimes 3 year old children are baptised). The normal age for a child's baptism is somewhere between 6-12 months of age.

The parents of the child are expected to be Christian people and members of our church - who attend on a regular or semi-regular basis (or at least one parent). In situations where this is not the case, our minister is happy to discuss the possibility of baptism with parents who have a Christian faith and outline what would be involved (without any immediate promise that the baptism will be able to take place).

To begin this process please contact our minister and arrange to visit a one of our Sunday services first (so you can get to him and get to know our church). He will spend some time speaking to you after the service and will then arrange a time and date for two meetings with you – at the church or in your home.

**Meeting 1:** This meeting involves a discussion of your Christian background, an overview of the biblical understanding of baptism and a brief look at the wording of the Anglican baptism service.

**Meeting 2:** This meeting involves an open Q & A session where you are welcome to ask any question you want relating to the Christian faith. This session also includes finalising paperwork and the order of service for the baptism.

Note that the date for the baptism can be negotiated with our minister after you meet him in person.

In general, we do not baptise children where the family lives in an area that is not close to our church (more than a suburb or two away). Our view is that (barring very exceptional circumstances) parents should seek out a local church where their child might be baptised and where the family can be encouraged in their Christian faith.

Unless there are special circumstances involved, baptisms normally take place in our Sunday morning services. However, it is usually possible to hold a short, special baptism service at 12:30pm or 1pm on a Sunday.

Parents who themselves are not Christian believers (or who for some reason are not comfortable making the parental baptismal promises) are encouraged not to seek the baptism of their child. In these cases, a thanksgiving service can be offered in place of a baptism service (with different statements made by the parents).

Please contact our minister (Rev. Adam Clark) if you have questions or are interested in proceeding with the baptism preparation process.

Church Office Phone: 9663 1538

Minister's Email: [minister@keac.com.au](mailto:minister@keac.com.au)