



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

Baptism Information 2021

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

1. Our Church

Our church is the result of a merging of two parishes just over 25 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 in 'Growth Groups' to study the bible and pray together. We run a music themed playgroup called 'Junior Jivers' on Friday mornings at Kensington (9:30-11am). We have groups on Friday afternoon and evenings for children and youth. We also teach SRE (Special Religious Education) classes at three local schools.

2. The Baptism of Teenagers and Adults

Teenagers or adults that would like to be baptised are expected to attend our church on regular or semi-regular basis. Those under 18 years old will need permission from their parents.

Generally, the preparation for baptism for teenagers and adults involves participation in a short course that our church runs twice a year (Alpha or Christianity Explored). Both of these courses examine the foundations of the Christian faith and allow opportunities for questions and discussion.

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. This is sometimes referred to as a 'Christening.' There is no set age that this should occur. Sometimes 2-month-old children are baptised, and sometimes toddlers or pre-schoolers are baptised. The normal age for a child's baptism is somewhere between 4-12 months of age.

Because of the nature of the solemn promises made by the parents in the baptism service, the parents of the child are expected to have a genuine and

active Christian faith. However, note that sometimes this may only be the case for only one parent.

Ideally parents who are seeking baptism for their child would have an existing connection to our church and attend our church services on a regular or semi-regular basis. If this is not the case, our minister is happy to meet parents who have a Christian faith and discuss the possibility of baptism and outline what would be involved. After that meeting our minister will then make an assessment about whether or not offering a baptism would be appropriate. Note that the date for the baptism can only be negotiated with our minister after you have met with him in person.

If you would like to begin this process, please contact our minister and arrange to visit one of our Sunday services. Our minister will then arrange a time and date for two meetings with you. These meetings can take place at the church or in your home.

Meeting 1: This meeting involves a discussion of your Christian background and experience; examining the details of the Anglican baptism service; and discussing whether a baptism for your child would be appropriate.

Meeting 2: If our minister believes that a baptism for your child would be appropriate, this meeting involves an opportunity to ask any questions you have relating to the Christian faith. In this meeting the details of the baptism service are discussed and the paperwork for that service is finalised.

In general, we do not baptise children where the family has no connection to our church or does not live somewhere in the local area. It is our view that parents should seek out a local church for a baptism to occur, where the family can continue to be encouraged in their Christian faith.

Unless there are special circumstances involved, baptisms normally take place in our Sunday morning services. However, it is sometimes possible to hold a short baptism service on Saturday or Sunday afternoon.

4. Other Options

Parents who are not Christian believers (or who are not comfortable making the parental baptismal promises) are encouraged not to seek the baptism of their child. In these cases, a special thanksgiving service can be offered in place of a baptism service (with different statements made by the parents). Our minister can show this service to you to help you decide if it would be appropriate for you and your child.

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