

Sunday Service Times

If you are interested in baptism then please come along to the Sunday service and discuss things with the Parish priest after the service.

Church	Time	Person to contact
St Catherine Gelliwastad Rd Pontypridd, CF37 2TH	11.00 am	Rev Peter Lewis 01443 402021 revpeterlewis@gmail.com
St Luke Howell St Cilfynydd, CF37 4NU	9.30 am	Rev Peter Lewis 01443 402021 revpeterlewis@gmail.com
Christchurch Clive Terrace Ynysybwl, CF37 3LD	11.00 am	Rev David Nyirongo 01443 564686 nyirongodavy@gmail.com
St David Gyfellion Rd Hopkinstown, CF37 2PP	9.30 am	Rev David Nyirongo 01443 564686 nyirongodavy@gmail.com
St John Graig St Graig, CF37 1NF	11.00 am	Fr Michael Gable 01443 650336 michaeldgable@gmail.com
St Mary Graig yr Helfa Rd Glyntaff, CF37 4AY	9.30 am	Fr Michael Gable 01443 650336 michaeldgable@gmail.com
St Luke Cardiff Rd Rhydyfelin, CF37 5LG	9.30 am	Fr Michael Gable 01443 650336 michaeldgable@gmail.com

Jesus said "In very truth I tell you, no can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and spirit."

The Parish of Pontypridd

www.pontypriddparish.wales



Baptism Information

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

Christian Initiation has three important elements – baptism itself, confirmation, and becoming 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 or immersion 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.

When children are baptized, their parents and carefully selected godparents undertake certain responsibilities. For this reason parents and godparents are usually helped and assisted beforehand in understanding their responsibilities. The local Church also has an important role in helping them to nurture their child in the new life which Baptism brings.

The Church in Wales recognises that once established patterns are giving way to a whole new way of thinking within families and communities. Many baptized children are not brought to confirmation, as once they were, and the closeness between Church and family has not been maintained. Furthermore, some would want to provide opportunity for thanksgiving at the birth of their child whilst preferring Baptism and Confirmation to be something of personal choice on the part of their child at a later adult stage.

The Church provides for children to be baptized in the hope and trust that parents and the local church together will surround them with a living faith which will sustain them throughout their lives. The Church also provides for those who come to the Christian life anew, supporting them, informing, teaching and encouraging them as they receive the grace of the Holy Spirit.

At every stage of Christian Initiation it is important for all concerned that proper preparation is made. Parents and Godparents of young children are encouraged to understand fully their responsibilities and duties in reading the Bible, in praying, and in worshipping regularly as an example to their child. Older children and adults who come to be baptised are expected to participate in a course of instruction and preparation within the Church. By their own example members of the local church are responsible to encourage and help all who come to Christ. They may be present at all stage of this process, welcoming and embracing the newly baptised and confirmed in the fellowship of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Some questions you may have

Who should we choose as Godparents for our child?

Most people have very special family or friends who they feel will serve well as Godparents. The Church requires that Godparents should be baptised Christians, and where possible, confirmed Church members. Once again, the promises imply that parents and Godparents are themselves baptised. Sometimes parents have not already been baptised. This may well prove a time for great thought and consideration in the life of a family. Please speak to the local clergy or members of the congregation who will want to support and encourage you. Adults seeking baptism would normally be prepared for confirmation at the same time.

When should the Baptism take place?

It is important that Baptism takes place after preparation and good planning. Baptism should be within the context of public worship so as to express that nature of belonging within the Christian Family.

In the Parish of Pontypridd baptisms take place during the Sunday morning services as listed overleaf.

We want to express our thanksgiving to God in the birth of our child, but we feel that he/she should decide for themselves at a later stage whether or not they should be baptised. Can the Church help us?

The Church is happy to welcome you and your child/children at a service of thanksgiving for their life. This, too, can take place in the context of public parish worship. It can be a celebration of their life and of your family love. However, it must be made clear that it does not convey the Christian membership and life long commitment which takes place in the waters of Baptism.

In the Parish of Pontypridd a service of thanksgiving can be arranged for a Sunday morning or at other times as agreed with the Parish priest.

Material used in this publication is from www.churchinwales.org.uk/faith/baptism where further general information is available.