

# Congratulations on the birth of your baby.

We are delighted to hear of the birth of your child. It is a great responsibility that God has given you, and yet it is a great privilege and joy to bring a child into the world. We are especially glad that you want to mark this occasion with a church ceremony.

Which service you choose is up to you. You can choose a Thanksgiving Service or a Baptism. These ceremonies take place during one of our Sunday services, usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Many find the 9.30am Family Service at St Stephen's or the 4pm Family Service at Colo Vale to be the most suitable.

We would like to get to know you and for you to be comfortable in our church. **We therefore require that people agree to attend church at least three times before their service.** With this in mind, we need at least two months notice of your desire for a baptism or thanksgiving service. We recommend the 9.30am and 4pm services.

The officiating minister will visit you before the special service and discuss what will happen at the service and answer any questions you might have. In consultation with you, we will set the date for the service.

No payment is expected because we do not want anyone to miss out. If you wish to make a contribution to our church's financial needs then you are welcome to do so at the service.

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a follower of Jesus, we would love to help you get to know him better. We offer a 6-8 week introductory course called *Introducing God*, which can be organised to take place in your own home, if you prefer.

Our aim is to work with you to provide a significant and meaningful special service for you and your family and to help you be properly prepared for it. At our church we try and learn about God and the Christian faith together, and we would like to help you in teaching your child. So you and your family are always welcome at our services. Our 9.30 Family service at St Stephen's and 4pm Family Service at Colo Vale cater specifically for families. Both have a toddler's play area and Kids' Church running during the service time.

## TYPES OF SERVICES

A **Thanksgiving Service** enables parents to thank God for the birth of their child without obligation. It is a type of christening service where parents can have their child appropriately named, with prayers offered to God. Their child receives a blessing from God in the presence of their godparents, friends and family. This service is offered to anyone who would like to have an association with our church, and would like to mark their child's birth by giving thanks to God for such a wonderful gift.

**Baptism** is a sign of membership in God's church. It is a ceremony which symbolises Jesus' death and our death, and therefore carries with it various responsibilities. For the child of a believer, baptism signifies and seals that the infant who is baptised with water is part of the covenant family of God and so is already forgiven through Jesus. It is important, therefore, that parents make every effort to bring up their children in the fear and knowledge of the Lord. They will need to teach them about their heavenly Father, and how he has already set his love upon them. They will need to teach them how to respond to his love, by trusting him and following in his ways. As children grow, they will soon be able to express for themselves their faith in Christ and their desire to follow him in response to his grace.

In the Baptism service, there are three questions that the Parents and Godparents have to answer with a 'yes'. It is important that Parents and Godparents are familiar with these before the service. The minister will go through the questions with you, the parents, and it is up to you to tell the Godparents these questions. Godparents are welcome to be present when the minister visits you, but this is not essential.

The questions are:

*Are you committed to the Christian faith?*

*Are you a follower of Jesus Christ and a member of his church, sincerely believing the promises of God?*

*Are you willing to accept responsibility to teach your child to trust and live by this faith?*

If you are happy to answer 'yes' to these questions, then we are happy to perform the Baptism.



If you would like to celebrate your child's birth and give thanks to God for this gift of new life through any of these services, then please fill out the application on the other side of this leaflet and either email or post the form to the church office.

Alternatively, you can ring Andrew Paterson 4871 1947 or another of our ministry team (contact details are on the back of this form) to organise an interview or ask any questions you might have about the services.

Services are usually held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month at the 9.30am or the 4pm Sunday service. The type, date and place of the service will be worked out in consultation with the minister at the initial interview. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Please turn this form over for to the application form.*

I would like a minister  
to come and talk with me about  
a special service for my child.

Child's full name

.....

Date of birth

Parent's full names and occupations

Mother's Name:.....

Occupation:.....

Father's Name:.....

Occupation:.....

Address.....

.....

Telephone number (h).....

(w).....

Return to:  
Church Office  
Mittagong Anglican Church  
PO Box 633  
Mittagong 2575



## Mittagong Anglican Ministry Team

Andrew Paterson	4872 1707
Richard Mills	4871 1947
Janelle Baglin	4889 5527

## Sunday Services

### St Stephen's Mittagong

8am	Traditional Lord's Supper
9.30am	Family Contemporary
11am	Traditional
6pm	Youth Contemporary

### CVCC (Colo Vale Community Church)

Colo Vale Public School Hall  
4pm Family Contemporary

## Cubby Club

Mittagong Anglican Church runs a Cubby Club on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings 10am-12noon. Pre-Schoolers and their carers from the church and the community meet at the St John's Ambulance Hall, Bong Bong Rd Mittagong and enjoy children's crafts, activities, stories and morning tea.

For more information contact Sue Henshall 4878 5423.



**For more information about Mittagong Anglican Church and programmes available, please contact one of the ministry team or the church office.**

Phone:	4872 4821
Email:	<a href="mailto:mittango@hinet.net.au">mittango@hinet.net.au</a>
Webpage:	<a href="http://www.mittang.com.au">www.mittang.com.au</a>

March 2007

# a special service for your baby

Baptism, Christening and  
Thanksgiving services

## Mittagong Anglican Church



request form & information