



CHRIST THE MEDIATOR ANGLICAN CHURCH – PORTLAND CHRIST THE GOOD SHEPHERD ANGLICAN CHURCH – EASTRIDGE

Policy for the Sacrament of Baptism

1. **POLICY STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

Baptism is the one sacrament that all Christian denominations share in common. In the Anglican Church, infants are baptised to welcome them into the Christian faith and to free them from the sinful nature they were born into.

Baptism marks the moment in which someone begins their life-long journey as a member of the church. Adults make their own commitment and promises but, for children, those promises are made on their behalf by parents and godparents. Therefore, considering this, both the parents and godparents must be committed Christians.

Jesus taught his followers to make disciples of all nations and to baptise those who believed the message about Jesus and trusted in Him. From the early days followers of Christ have also baptised their children trusting the promises of God apply to our children and longing that they should grow up to trust in Jesus for themselves.

2. **SCOPE OF THIS POLICY**

This policy covers all baptisms at Christ the Mediator - Wall Street Portland and Christ the Good Shepherd - Palestrina Street Eastridge.

3. **PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY**

The purpose of this policy is to:

- a. Ensure that all baptisms are held in accordance with the principles of the Anglican Church.
- b. Ensure that all guidelines according to the Canons and the Diocesan manual of the Diocese of False Bay are adhered to.
- c. Provide clear guidelines for all parishioners.

4. **RESOURCES**

- a. Canons of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa
- b. Diocesan Manual of the Diocese of Falsebay
- c. Anglican Prayer Book (1989)

5. **WHO CAN BE BAPTISED**

- a. The Anglican Church believes in one baptism and one alone. Baptism is not a mere symbol, but a Sacrament.
- b. While we welcome anyone who wishes to be baptised, and we will do all we can to ensure they or their parents (in the case of minors) are adequately prepared before being baptised, we require that they be worshipping members in good standing within the Parish Church of Christ the Mediator and the Chapelry of Christ The Good Shepherd.
- b) Any person who professes that Christ is the Lord of the world, was crucified for the fallen world, was raised to new life by God, and who trusts Him for their salvation may be baptised. Adults, children and infants are most welcomed to be baptised in our church.
- c) Adults will make their own commitment and promises while, for children, those promises are made on their behalf by parents and godparents.

6. **ROLE OF PARENTS IN BAPTISM**

- a. At least one parent must be baptised.
- b. Parents must be worshipping and active pledging members of the Parish.
- c. Parents must be committed to raising the child in a Christian way by encouraging their spiritual growth through regular attendance at
- d. divine services and to ensure that the child receives the sacraments.
- e. Unwed parents are required to go for confession prior to baptism.

7. **GODPARENTS**

The role of a Godparent is to assist with the spiritual growth of the baptised child. A godparent makes the promises (as per the Service of Baptism in the Anglican Prayer Book)- together with the parents of the child, on behalf of the child and promises to provide an example of faith to “help the baptised to lead a Christian life in harmony with baptism, and to fulfill faithfully the obligations connected with it”. If the baptised is an infant or child whose parents are faithful, the godparent assists the parents, who

are the primary teachers of the faith. If the baptised is an infant or child whose parents are not faithful to the Church, the godparent must provide a primary role in the spiritual growth of his/her Godchild.

The greatest help a godparent provides is an example of faith. The godparent must foster the virtues within him/her and provide an example of prayer. As part of this example of faith, the godparent must be involved in the life of his/her godchild. No one is an example unless he is seen by those to whom he witnesses. Being actively involved in the life of a godchild fosters a strong relationship and enables the godparent to serve as a role model. The godchild can then better understand his/her status as a child of God. In order that they can fulfil their role as Godparents, and to be able to make the declarations and promises in the baptism service -spiritually, the following will apply:

- a. No adults of a different faith can be a Godparent.
 - b. No adults belonging to a Pentecostal Church or a church that does not accept infant baptism can be a Godparent.
 - c. Godparents must be baptised themselves and to be confirmed as well (or the equivalent if they are members of a Christian denomination other than the Anglican Church.
 - d. Godparents who are not members of the Parish Church of Christ The Mediator or the Chapelry of Christ The Good Shepherd must obtain a letter from their own Parish/church stating that they are members in good standing with their parish/church.
- 8. PROCEDURES FOR BAPTISM**
- a. Parents of children to be baptised or adults who are to be baptised, are to meet with the Clergy.
 - b. Baptism Application Forms are to be completed.
 - c. Non-members of the Parish are to complete a membership application form to formalize their membership
 - d. Current members must be up to date with their pledge offerings
 - e. Parents of children to be baptised, together with the child's Godparents are to attend preparation classes.
 - f. Adults who are to be baptised are to attend the aforesaid classes as well.
- 9. EMERGENCY BAPTISM**
- In the case of a child who is seriously ill, the Clergy must be consulted with regards to baptism.
- 10. WHAT HAPPENS IN THE SERVICE**
- The Service of Baptism is clearly detailed in the Anglican Prayer Book (1989).
- 11. WHEN DOES BAPTISM TAKE PLACE**
- Baptism normally forms part of a divine service. The dates and times of these are set by the Clergy. Any baptism that does not form part of divine services is purely at the discretion of the Clergy.
- 12. COST OF BAPTISM**
- As baptism is a sacrament, there is no cost involved. Parents and Godparents are however asked to make a donation to the church. The income from the donations is used to buy a special baptism candle with the child's name on it. Whatever is left over will be used to buy some item that can be used in the church and which will serve as a memento for those who are baptised.
- 13. PHOTOGRAPHY**
- Unless allowed by the Clergy, there will be no photography – still or video, allowed during the baptism service. Photographs can be taken after the service.

Parents and God Parents Commitment

We the undersigned Parents and Godparents of.....(child's name) have read this Policy. We fully understand its contents and commit ourselves to abide by its requirements.

Father: Name.....	Signature:.....	Date:.....
Mother: Name.....	Signature:.....	Date:.....
Godfather: Name	Signature:.....	Date:.....
Godmother: Name	Signature:.....	Date:.....