



BANORA POINTER

Sunday 21 November 2021 | Christ The King /
Reign of Christ



Message from Rev. Aaron Moad

Today we are celebrating the baptism of Luca into the family of God. So I thought it would be a nice idea to examine

what baptism is and what it means.

What is Baptism and why do we get baptised?

Baptism is a Holy Sacrament, it is one of the two Sacraments that the Uniting Church celebrates, the other being the Eucharist or Communion. Baptism is not a ticket out of hell and it is not a ticket into heaven.

Baptism is an initiation into the Christian community, the Church, the Body of Christ and the continued ministry and mission of Christ.

The Baptismal Service

The Uniting Church's Baptismal Liturgy describes Baptism in this way:

Baptism is Christ's gift. It is the sign by which the Spirit of God joins people to Jesus Christ and incorporates them into his body, the Church.

In his own baptism in the Jordan by John, Jesus identified himself with humanity in its brokenness and sin; that baptism was completed in his death and resurrection.

By God's grace, baptism plunges us into the faith of Jesus Christ, so that whatever is his may be called ours.

By water and the Spirit we are claimed as God's own and set free from the power of sin and death.

Thus, claimed by God we are given the gift of the Holy Spirit that we may live as witnesses to Jesus Christ, share his ministry in the world and grow to maturity, awaiting with hope the day of our Lord Jesus.

('The Meaning of Baptism' from 'The Sacrament of Baptism and the Reaffirmation of Baptism called



Confirmation' in Uniting in Worship 2, © 2005 The Uniting Church in Australia, p. 74)

The Meaning of Baptism

Baptism is a visible sign of God's grace. That is most powerfully expressed in the practice of baptising infants as well as adults as an expression of God's gracious welcome into the community of faith.

This is worth bearing in mind when we ask questions about whether or not an infant ought to be baptised when she/he has no understanding of what it is all about. Baptism is about the action of God—not about the maturity of the person.

That is true also for adults who seek Baptism on the profession of their faith in Christ. It is not a celebration of the achievement of a person who is affirming faith, but a celebration of the Christ who brought that faith to birth and now incorporates him/her into the Body of Christ.

(A Hitchhikers Trip Through The Basis of Union, Don Whebell and Duncan Harrison, 1997, page 19)

Baptism is a wonderful occasion, but it is also very serious. As part of the ritual there are solemn promises made by parents (or the initiate) to God and the congregation and in turn there are promises made by the congregation to the to God and the initiate to nurture them in the faith. There is therefore a hope that the family and child become part of the congregation through regularly attending worship and being involved in the life of the Church so these promises can be fulfilled.

Baptism is a preparation for mission, it is an initiation into the Body of Christ.

Baptism into Christ's body initiates people into Christ's life and mission in the world, so that they are united in one fellowship of love, service, suffering and joy, in one family of the Father of all in heaven and earth, and in the power of the one Spirit and the love of Christ.

Banora Point Uniting Church

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Acknowledgement To Country

The Banora Point Uniting Church acknowledge the indigenous traditional owners and custodians of this land, the Goori people and their Elders, past, present and future.

Our Mission: To love God and love our neighbours

A Message From Elizabeth

"Give thanks with a grateful heart..." (1 Th 5:18)

Today my message is to give thanks, not only to my loving God for sustaining me through the challenging times of the past 2 years but also to give thanks to those who support me at BPUC.

THANK YOU

- To all Church Councillors and Elders
- To those who have offered to help with Messy Church
- To those who volunteer for a roster/position
- To Ray Browne for repairing the slide and restoring the children's playground
- To Jeff Sales for always helping/advising on issues related to the building
- To those who conducted the Craft stalls
- To those who lead Bible Studies and Prayer groups
- To those who lead other groups/activities
- To Marshall Pagan for co-ordinating donations for Fred's Place
- To the musicians
- To Leslie Goodman (Admin Officer) and Cilla and Abby who support him
- To the Communications Committee, implementing fresh new ways to publicise BPUC
- To those who supported Operation Christmas Child
- To those who provide prayer and financial support to BPUC
- To Rev Aaron for the ways in which he is exploring the pathway of Regeneration.

To all those that I have mentioned, I do give my sincerest thanks, with a grateful heart.

God's richest blessings to all

Elizabeth Wells,

BPUC Church Council Chairperson

Fred's Place

There has been a proposal we assist clients of Fred's place by providing some small gifts and/ or non-perishable food items at Christmas.

If any one wishes to contribute to this, a basket will be available in the foyer on 5th 12th and 19th of December.

Contact Marshall Pagan for any queries.

Offerings

Please continue to direct debit/credit directly into your nearest Commonwealth Bank Branch or Please contact Neil Rackham if you need any assistance.

Bank details are:

Account Name: The Uniting Church in Australia
Banora Point Church

(Note: Your Bank website may limit the number of characters you can put into the account name box so "The Uniting Church in Aust" is OK)

BSB No: 062 611 **Account No:** 10120762

What's Happening This Week

Wednesday	Prayer Meeting 8am Worship Singers 2pm
Thursday	Men's Bible Study group 9am CWCI Bible Study 10am Evening Bible Study group 6:30pm
Next Sunday	Worship Service 9am

Upcoming events for your diary

Church Picnic	5 December @ TBA
Messy Church	11 December @ 4pm
Christmas Eve Service	24 December @ 7pm
Christmas Day Service	25 December @ 9am
Boxing Day Service	26 December @ 9am
Mainly Music	Early February 2022

Church Roster

	<u>TODAY</u>	<u>NEXT SUNDAY</u>
Organist	Jill	Audrey
Greeter	Robyn & Janice	Sylvia & Nigel
Bible Reader	Virginia & Dudley	Yesha & Stephanie
Morning Tea	Audrey & Stephanie	Judy & Shirley
Hall Set Up	Neil	Peter
Cleaning	Helen P	Neil & Nellie

If you are unable to do your roster, please organise a swap AND let Janice know ASAP.

Morning tea and chat with Rev. Aaron

Please join Rev. Aaron for morning tea and a chat, Monday mornings at Twisted Fig Café, (near Harvey Norman & Bunnings, in the Tweed Homemaker Centre, Tweed Heads South, at 9:30am. **Everyone is welcome.**

Worship Singers

With the support of Council and Elders and minister Aaron Moad, the worship singers would like to form again to lead a worship time in the quarter of an hour before church.

The singers choose about 4 songs. We would like to meet at 2pm on a Wednesday afternoon to practice and have different people lead the singing.

If you enjoy singing we would welcome anybody to join us this Wednesday, 17th November at 2pm. There are many great Christian songs that we can share and bring our thoughts of praise to our God into the service at 9am.

Activity dates for 2022

As the new year is fast approaching and the new "normal" is taking hold, can the organisers of the activities please give to Leslie or email the church on **bpuchurch@optusnet.com.au** with the details of your activities, so they can be included into the Pointer.