

A photograph of a baptism ceremony. In the foreground, a woman is being baptized in a baptismal font by a pastor. The woman is leaning forward, and the pastor is pouring water over her head. In the background, two women are standing and talking. The image has a teal overlay.

THINKING ABOUT

Baptism?

THINKING ABOUT BAPTISM?

If you're reading this baptism booklet, you're likely either curious about baptism, are already planning to be baptised, or maybe have recently been baptised and still have questions. Let's take a look at what the Bible says about baptism and why it's important.

Baptism is a declaration and celebration of faith in Jesus

Making the decision to become a follower of Christ is the best decision you'll ever make, and baptism is a way of letting others know of the hope you've found in Him! Our faith should be personal, but not private. Baptism is about going public with your faith. Your baptism may also be the encouragement others need to make the same decision!

Baptism isn't what saves you

In Ephesians 2:8-9, Paul reminds us we're not saved by any good works—including baptism—but only by grace through faith in Jesus. Baptism is an outward sign of a change that's already happened inside your heart. It's putting your faith into action.

Baptism is a reminder

When we're baptised, we're reminded of what Jesus did for us. When we go down into the water, we're reminded of Jesus' death on the cross and His payment for our sins, followed by His burial. But when we come out of the water, we're reminded Jesus rose from the dead! 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us if we're in Christ, we're new creations. Baptism reminds us the old is gone, and the new has come! *See also Colossians 2:12 and Romans 6:6-8.*

Baptism is a symbol

Just like a wedding ring is a symbol of marriage for a couple, the ring doesn't make them married. In fact, if one of them loses their wedding ring, they're still married! The same goes for baptism. It's a symbol that we belong to Jesus, and we've committed our lives to Him.

Baptism is a step of obedience to Jesus' example and instruction

In Matthew 3:13-17, we learn about the time when Jesus Himself was baptised before He started His ministry on earth. If the Son of God pursued baptism, so should we. Later, Jesus told us in Matthew 28:18-20 to spread His message of love and to continue the practice of baptism for those who come to believe in Him. *See also Acts 22:16.*

What if I was baptised/christened as an infant?

Whilst we respect other churches may have different traditions, our belief and practice is full immersion baptism (the example Jesus set) for individuals capable of making a personal commitment to Jesus.

We offer the opportunity for parents to publicly give thanks for their little ones and to commit to raising their children in a God-honouring way, with the support of their church family. We call this a “dedication”.

What about my age?

The only prerequisite for baptism is a confession of personal faith in Jesus and a desire to follow Him. We have baptised people of all ages and stages of life.

Can I get re-baptised?

The Bible presents baptism as a one-time event, as it signifies salvation, a one-time event. Nowhere in Scripture do we see an example of Christians being baptized multiple times. Spiritual refreshment can come by simply meditating on what one’s baptism meant. Those who seek refreshment can find it through confession of sin, repentance, prayer, Bible reading, fellowship with other believers, and the transformation that comes “by the renewing of your mind” (Romans 12:2).

Do I have to be baptised in front of the whole congregation?

As a church family we would love to celebrate your baptism with you and encourage your faith journey. However, we understand large crowds may be unsettling for some. We can arrange for baptisms to take place outside of a Sunday service with a smaller gathering of friends and family. You can discuss this with one of our team.

Some people have also been baptised in a creek, or dam, or the ocean or a swimming pool. We want this occasion to be meaningful for you, so if a different location meets that need we are happy to discuss this with you.

‘WHAT’S NEXT?’ →

WHAT'S NEXT?

As your church family, we're delighted that you've chosen to be baptised. It's a meaningful and significant step in your faith journey, and we're honoured to share it with you.

If you would like to arrange to be baptised, or have any questions or would like to talk more about baptism, please don't hesitate to contact a pastor, elder, or the church office
(ph: 4635 0350 | e: hello@humeridge.church).

In preparation for your baptism, we will discuss with you:

- A date for your baptism
- Someone to baptise you — this can be any Christian
- Someone to pray for you following your baptism
- Your testimony — a brief moment of sharing how you came to faith in Jesus and what led to the decision to be baptised.

And as you take this step, we encourage you to invite your friends and family to celebrate this special moment with you.

AFTER BAPTISM

Your baptism is not the end of your spiritual journey—it's a significant step on the lifelong walk of faith in Christ and learning to follow Him.

Now that you believe in Jesus and have chosen to express your faith through baptism, aim to keep growing as a faithful Christian. Make time to gather regularly for Communion and become involved in the life of your church community. Keep learning what it means to follow Jesus and look for ways to serve Him and others. Use the gifts and abilities God has given you to bless others and be ready to share your faith with those around you.

In Acts 2:42, we read that the early Christians, after being baptised, “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread (Communion) and to prayer.” This is a helpful example for us as we continue to grow in our faith.