

LUGAR BRAE UNITING CHURCH

2A Leichhardt St. Bronte. NSW. 2024



baptisms

hello

We are delighted that you have considered having your child baptised at Lugar Brae Uniting Church. Baptism is a significant milestone in the Christian faith, and we are here to support you and your family throughout this meaningful journey. This booklet provides essential information to help you understand the baptism process at Lugar Brae and to prepare for this special occasion.

This isn't an exhaustive list, so please don't hesitate to ask anything we may have missed.

welcome to lugar brae

- Lugar Brae Uniting Church is nestled in the heart of Bronte, situated in Sydney's leafy Eastern Suburbs.
- The Church sits humbly across the road from St Catherine's School.
- The Church was established in 1881, and has been an active member within the community.

baptisms in the uniting church

- Lugar Brae Uniting Church being a proud member of the Uniting Church in Australia follows the rites of Baptism, as part of this we include baptisms in our Sunday services. Baptism is a beautiful reminder of the life God has bestowed upon us and highlights the path of living taught by Jesus Christ.
- Baptism is one of many ways of celebrating the divine grace present in everyone's life. It serves as a heartfelt affirmation that we are all connected within the infinite love of God.
- During the baptism of your child, not only are they participating in a meaningful ritual but they are also being warmly welcomed into the church family. This ceremony signifies their initiation into the broad Christian community and integrates them with our local congregation at Lugar Brae.

a commitment made by parents

- Baptism of a child involves a solemn commitment on the part of a parent(s) to raise their child within the Christian faith. Parents promise to teach their child about the values and traditions of Christian faith, and to provide experiences of Christian worship and community whenever possible as their child grows.
- In baptism, parents will be asked to promise to share the Christian faith with their child. The presider will ask the following questions. Text in **BOLD** is the response of the Parent(s)

Will you encourage your child's growth with the Christian community, guiding them through participation in worship, nurture and fellowship of the Church to a mature Christian faith?

With God's help, we will.

Will you, by word and example, teach them the way of Christ until the Spirit draws them to make their own response in faith and love?

With God's help, we will.

- Baptism is not a requirement for God's blessing of a child or adult. We believe that God loves and accepts every person, and that nothing can separate us from that sacred love.
- If making the commitment to bring your child up within the Christian faith is not something with which you are comfortable, we also offer thanksgiving and blessing as an alternative.

choosing a date

Baptisms are usually celebrated on the second Sunday of the month, during the 9.30am service, however Lugar Brae is happy to discuss alternative dates should this not be an option.

meeting the presider

- After an initial Baptism enquiry has been received, a meeting with the Presider will be arranged. This will be a conversation about why you have chosen to have your child baptised at Lugar Brae and your commitment as parent(s) to fulfil the promises.
- This meeting can either be in person at Lugar Brae Uniting Church or via video call.
- Meeting with the Presider is required before the baptism can be confirmed.

baptism confirmation form

- Once the baptism is confirmed by the Presider, you will be sent a confirmation form. Please provide the names of all children to be baptised.
- Return the form to the office as soon as possible after meeting with the Presider (at least two weeks before the service).
- The Baptism confirmation form is helpful as Lugar Brae provides personalised baptismal candles for each child baptised. The candle is personalised with the child's name and date of baptism.

godparents

- You are welcome to choose *one or two godparents* for your child, but this is optional.
- The godparent(s) will stand with you during the baptism. In recognition of the commitment they are making, they will be asked to respond to two questions.
- Please check that the godparent(s) you have chosen are willing to make these promises.

Will you commit yourself to being a guide and support to your godchild on their spiritual journey, wherever that may take them?

With God's help, I will.

Will you be available to your godchild as they grow, sharing in their nurture and encouraging them in life?

With God's help, I will.

the week before the baptism

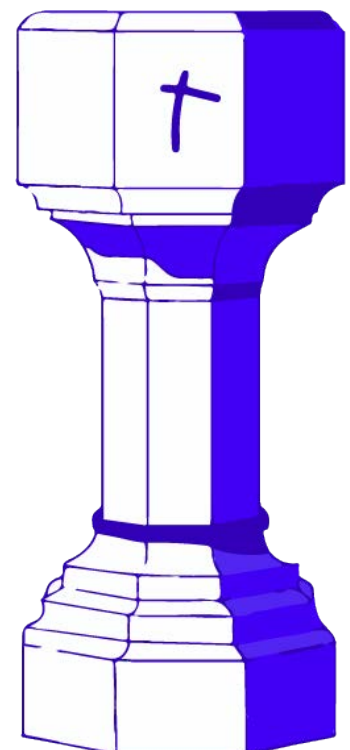
- The week prior to the Sunday of the baptism, the Presider or a member of Church Council will contact you to confirm arrangements.
- If you have not heard from someone 5 days before the baptism, please contact the church.

on the day of the baptism

- The Presider or a member of Church Council will meet you at the entrance to the church. Please arrive at a time to allow enough time to be prepared for the Service to commence.
- The Presider will welcome you in the church and give you information about the service. If the Presider is on leave, a guest Presider will celebrate the baptism.
- We appreciate the challenges of getting family and friends together. From our experiences, arriving early will help children feel comfortable in the church. Lugar Brae Uniting Church has an accessible bathroom designated for baby changing.
- The Church Vestry can be used in emergency circumstances, this is located on the front Northern side of the Sanctuary.

the baptism service

- Baptisms occur in the first section of the service, following the Welcome, Opening Hymn, and Prayers. Our tradition is that people stay for the whole service when a Baptism is celebrated
(The total time of the service is approximately 1hr15mins)
- When the time for the baptism comes, the Presider explains the Church's understanding of baptism and the congregation affirms the Christian faith into which the child will be baptised.
- The Presider will invite parents and children to come to the *Baptismal Font. Siblings and Godparents are also welcome to come to the font.
- The Presider baptises the child and a blessing is said.



church service continued

- Following the baptism, parents make promises to raise their child in the Christian faith.
- Each child baptised receives a baptism certificate along with a personalised Bible story book.
- Family members return to their seats and the Presider continues the service with readings, sermon, musical reflections, prayers and hymns.
- After the final hymn and blessing, the pianist will play a postlude. Some people remain seated to listen to the music. However it is also normal for people to exit the Sanctuary quietly after the blessing.
- Refreshments are served in the Fellowship space following the service. All guests at Lugar Brae Uniting Church are welcome to stay for this, however, we understand if alternative Baptism celebrations have been organised after the service.

family and friends

- There will be reserved seats for family and friends in the front seating of the Sanctuary. We appreciate that family and friends may come from different religious traditions or are not familiar about Christian baptisms, so please let them know that everyone is welcome at Lugar Brae Uniting Church.
- We understand that young children can sometimes become distressed during church services. We want to assure you that your child's comfort and well-being are important to us. We have a child-friendly space located at the rear of the sanctuary. Feel free to bring a favourite toy, book, or comfort item that might help.
- A small number of toys and books are available in the Children's play area, the Presider or a Member of Church Council will help you to identify the play area.

covid safe

- Masks are not mandatory at Lugar Brae Uniting Church. In line with COVID Safe requirements Lugar Brae Uniting Church provides access to COVID masks and sanitiser should you require them.
- The Sanctuary has adequate ventilation.
- If you, your family, or friends have special requirements please inform the Presider and we will be happy to accommodate where possible.

video recording

- Our Sunday services are streamed to Church members and recorded. After the service, the recording is edited before being uploaded.
- Please be reassured that Baptisms are not included in the video that is made public on our website.
- We do have informed privacy consent forms in the event you would like the event included on the video posted.

photography

- You are welcome to take photographs in the church before and after the service and at the time of the baptism.
- If you would like to take photos during the service please check with the Presider beforehand.

donations

- There is no fee for baptism which is a sacrament of the Church. From experience, we find families will make a donation to the church to celebrate the baptism, however making a donation is voluntary.
- Family and friends can also make donations if inclined, however this is voluntary.
- Donations can be made by scanning the QR code located on the order of service. Information about electronic donations can be found on our website or at the end of this booklet.

parking

- Please plan to arrive early enough to find available parking and remind family and friends that parking may take time.
- There is ample street parking located on Leichhardt St, Bronte Rd, Macpherson St, and Lugar Brae Ave.
- Street parking is not time restricted on weekends.

public transport

- Bus services frequently stop on Albion St across from St Catherine's School. Lugar Brae Uniting Church is only minutes away from these services. Bus services include **350, 379, 360**

accessing the church

- The most accessible entrance to the church is via the ramp from Leichhardt St, alternatively guests can access the Church through the entrance via the steps on Lugar Brae Ave, on the southern side of the building.
- If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us. The church office phone is staffed Monday to Sunday, 8am to 10pm.

ongoing connection

- We hope that you will value the contact you have made with Lugar Brae Uniting Church on this occasion. We warmly welcome you and your children, your family and friends to Lugar Brae whenever you should feel inclined to visit and we promise to continue to offer opportunities to participate in a Uniting Church community.
- Lugar Brae is currently developing an inclusive Sunday Drama, aimed to reinterpret Sunday School. We are always diversifying how we do church, so feel free to engage with Lugar Brae Uniting Church at a level that is comfortable for you.

making donations

- For any donations, simply scanning the QR Code will take you to the Church's donation page.
- Donations of \$2 or more are eligible to be tax deductible. A PDF receipt is generated upon submission. If you do not receive a receipt, please don't hesitate to contact the Church office for a copy to be resent.
- Lugar Brae Uniting Church is a registered charity and operates within the regulations of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission. (ACNC)

