

Thanksgiving for Baby



Born 1st January 2026

Welcome to this Place & Naming

We acknowledge the Wallumata people as the traditional custodians of this land, and pay respect to elders past, present and emerging.

With them we honour this place, this land and its custodians and pray that we may live as a people reconciled in this land.

The Parents are asked: What name do you wish to give this child?

Baby

We come together to give thanks to our loving and life-giving God for the birth of Baby. We will anoint her with holy oil, a symbol of healing and strengthening. We will speak Baby's name in the presence of God and of this gathering, and we will bless her, listening for the voice of the Divine, whispering softly God's joy at her being.

(All Say) **"This is my child, my beloved, in whom I delight".**

Scripture Reading: Luke 18: 15-17

People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it.

But Jesus called for them and said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.'

A Homily is Preached

Anointing of Parents

The calling by God to be a parent is the most sacred of all vocations. When Divinity chose to share our human journey in the person of Jesus the Christ, God entrusted that fragile form to the care of Mary and Joseph. God now comes among us in relying on the gentle love of Mother and Father. We recognise their calling and the sacred trust given to them.

Mother and Father, I anoint you and confirm you in your calling as Baby's parents. May God equip you with all you need to love and nurture her on life's journey.

Anointing of Grandparents

The Prophets, Simeon and Anna waited patiently for the Christ child. They had longed for the day when God would send such a little one into the world. *Grandparents* have also waited for Baby.

We bless them and anoint them in their sacred vocation as Grandparents to Baby. May you, like Anna and Simeon, encourage, nurture and challenge Baby in her journey with the Divine.

Anointing of Godparents

Mother and Father entrust their precious daughter to the guidance, love, and support of those they have chosen as Godparents, *Godparents*, and we bless and anoint them for this sacred task.

Anointing and Blessing of Baby

- ❖ Baby, we anoint your mind, may you have wisdom.
- ❖ Baby, we anoint your ears, may you hear what is right.
- ❖ Baby, we anoint your lips, may you speak only truth.
- ❖ Baby, we anoint your eyes, may you see the beauty in all creation.
- ❖ Baby, we anoint your hands, may you do what is good.
- ❖ Baby, we anoint your heart, may you love deeply and fully.
- ❖ Baby, we anoint your feet, may you walk the path of peace.

Baby is blessed

**(All say) We your family and friends, promise
(as best we are able)
to walk with you, to laugh and cry with you,
to share with you what we have learnt on our journey
and to share your journey,
wherever that may lead.**

Gift Giving

The Magi (wise men) came bearing gifts for Jesus to ensure he had the best start, and to honour him.

Please accept this gift of a children's bible from us. May you read it together and as you do may your own story, and God's story, become one story.

Final Blessing

Go in peace and may God who is Creator of all
nurture you and hold you safe;
God in Christ walk by your side;
and God the Holy Spirit send you out with joy. **Amen.**