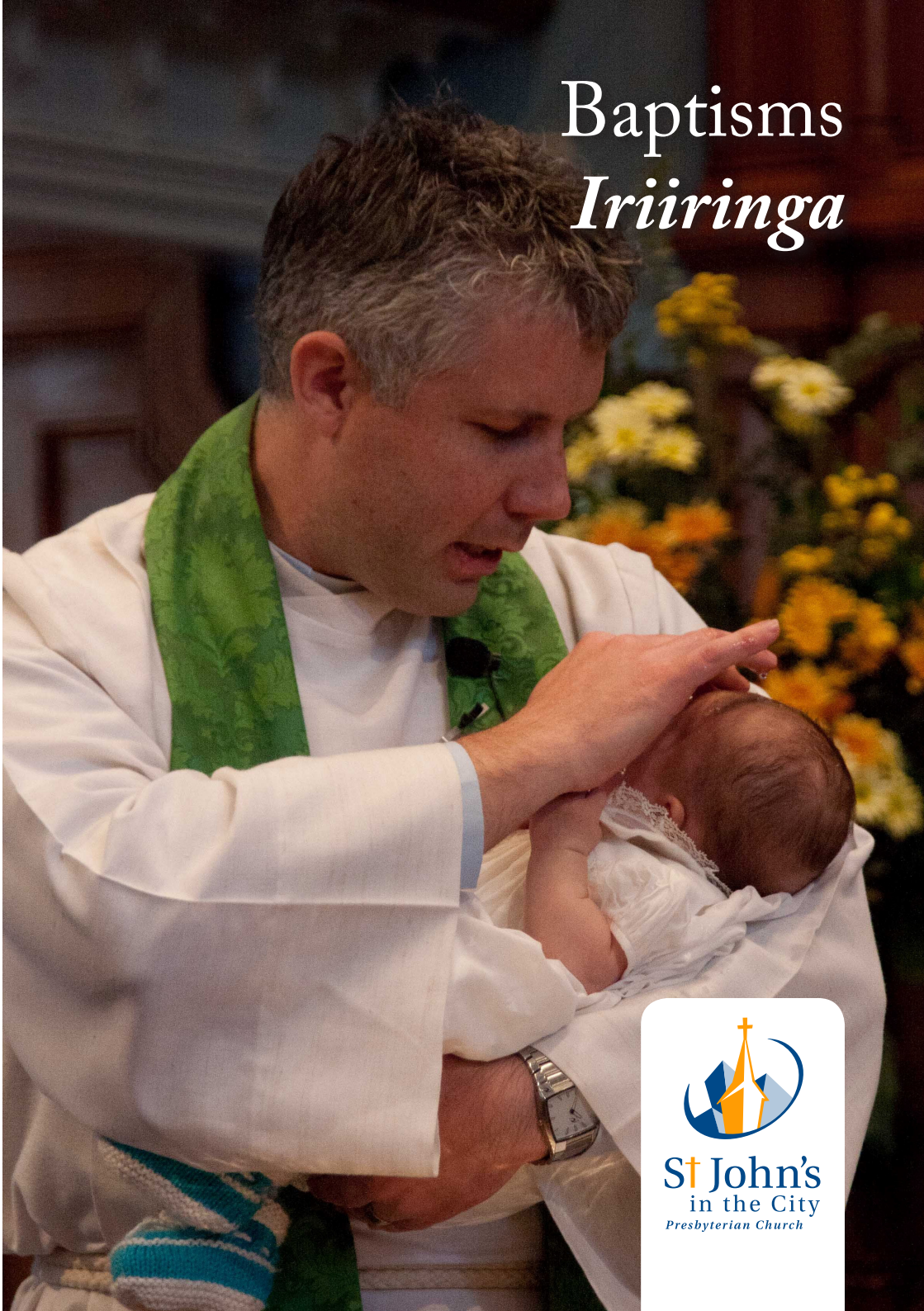


Baptisms *Iriiringa*



St John's
in the City
Presbyterian Church

Baptism and Confirmation

“Baptism is the initiatory sign by which we are admitted to the fellowship of the Church, that being engrafted into Christ we may be accounted children of God.”

(John Calvin, ‘The Institutes of Christian Religion’ Book 4.15.1)

It’s not our doing, but God’s

Baptism does not cause salvation; it is a sign of salvation.

God’s grace comes before our faith. God has reached out to us, in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and established a covenant with humanity. Baptism is a sign of that covenant. Baptism is a grateful acknowledgement that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us. Christ brings forgiveness, accomplishing for us what we cannot do for ourselves. Baptism is a response to what God has done for us.

Baptism is a sacrament

God promises to be present by his grace in the sacraments (Baptism and Communion) meaning that through them hearts are renewed and minds transformed by the life-giving presence of God.

Summary of important understandings of Baptism

- Baptism expresses our participation in Christ’s death and resurrection.
- Baptism expresses the primacy of God’s grace and initiative, which always precedes our response of faith and obedience.
- Baptism vividly expresses cleansing and forgiveness.
- Baptism incorporates us into the body of Christ, the Church.
- There is only one Baptism. It is not repeated because of change of church affiliation or a change of ‘feelings’.
- Baptism is celebrated publicly in the context of communal worship.
- Baptism conveys an understanding of mutual responsibility for supporting each other in faith.
- Baptism expresses the need for our dependence upon the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Baptism points toward the fulfilment of baptism in God’s plan for us and for the whole world.

What about Confirmation?

Confirmation is the cognitive, free acknowledgement and acceptance of the faith shown on our behalf by others when we were baptised as infants. It is the confirmation of the faith expressed at our Baptism.

We celebrate confirmation as an expression of a renewed desire to live out the faith that was expressed and shared in the original baptism. It is a joyous moment, celebrated in communal worship, as the Church gives thanks for the evidence of God working significantly in the person's life.

For more information, please see the St John's website www.stjohnsinthecity.org.nz

nau mai, haere mai ki



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