

THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA – KIAMA/JAMBEROO CONGREGATION

INFANT BAPTISM, DEDICATION AND BLESSING SERVICES INFORMATION



We were pleased to receive your recent inquiry concerning a service for your child. The members of the church wish to celebrate the birth of your child in a way that is most appropriate for you and the Church. An explanation of the services offered is outlined below. We invite you to consider which service will be best for you and then make an appointment to discuss this with members of the Leadership Team. We also enclose a document which explains something of what we understand, as the family of God, about infant baptism.

NAME OF SERVICE	FOR WHOM IT IS CONDUCTED	PURPOSE OF THIS SERVICE	REQUIRED OF THE PARENTS	REQUIRED OF THE CHURCH
SERVICE OF INFANT BAPTISM	The children of parents who are committed members and regular attendees of the gathered congregation and who are committed to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour; demonstrating that commitment by involvement in the life and mission of the Church.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To proclaim the gospel. The use of water symbolises the inward cleansing from sin and the renewal offered to us through the life and death of Jesus Christ. 2. To invite the Holy Spirit into the Christian life of the infant. 3. To give parents the opportunity to acknowledge that their child belongs to God, promising to provide an example to their child of Christian discipleship and Christian living. 4. To involve the child in the life of the church. 5. To live in the mystery of this sacrament. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. 2. To provide an example to the child of Christian living. 3. To give their child opportunity to grow up in the life and the faith of the Church. 4. Regular attendance and participation in the worshipping community of faith. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To maintain a place of fellowship, nurture, care and worship where God's Word is honoured and Christian love and fellowship is demonstrated. 2. To incorporate people of all ages into the life and fellowship of the Church. 3. To enable children and young people to know and worship God. 4. To pray for the child and the family.
SERVICE OF DEDICATION	Christian parents who prefer a service of dedication for their child instead of infant baptism, thus allowing their child to make his or her own decision regarding baptism.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To celebrate the birth of a child and acknowledge this gift from God. 2. To pray for the blessing of God upon the child and parents. 3. To encourage parents in their responsibilities for the child. 4. For Christian parents: to dedicate their child to God 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. 2. To provide an example of Christian living. 3. To give their child opportunity to grow up in the life and faith of the church. 4. Regular attendance in the worshipping community of faith. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To maintain a place of fellowship, nurture, care and worship where God's Word is honoured and Christian love and fellowship is demonstrated. 2. To incorporate people of all ages into the life and fellowship of the Church. 3. To enable children and young people to know and worship God. 4. To pray for the child and the family.
SERVICE OF BLESSING AND THANKSGIVING	Parents who do not wish or feel ready to publicly declare faith in Jesus and/or are not involved in the life of the Church	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To celebrate the birth of a child and acknowledge this gift from God. 2. To pray for the blessing of God upon the child and parents 3. To encourage parents in their responsibilities for the child. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A desire to have God's blessing upon their child. 2. A commitment to be faithful, loving and responsible parents. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To pray for the child. 2. To pray for and encourage the parents. 3. To provide a place where the family can be nurtured and cared for, welcomed and encouraged.