

## What happens at a service of Baptism?

The Minister will read from the Bible and give an explanation of the sacrament of Baptism. The parents will make a statement of their personal faith by answering the question: *“Do you confess your faith in God as your Heavenly Father, in Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, and in the Holy Spirit as your Sanctifier and Guide?”*

The parents will also respond to the question which outlines the responsibilities of Christian parenthood: “Do you promise, in dependence on Divine grace, to teach your child the truths and duties of the Christian faith, and by your prayers, teaching, and example, to bring up your child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord and in the ways of the Church of God?”

Baptism is a sign of God’s grace. But God’s grace places an obligation on us. We are to keep his covenant, not in order to earn his love, but to show our gratitude and to find his will. Baptism is a sacrament and privilege for those who are part of the Christian family. **That is why parents who request baptism for their child must trust in Christ for themselves and accept the privileges and responsibilities of church membership.**

Perhaps you do not feel that you are in a position to take the baptismal vows. You know that you should not profess something that is not true, nor make obligations that you do not intend to keep. But God may be speaking to you at this time. This may be God’s way of calling you to trust in Him as your Lord and Saviour.

We hope that this leaflet has helped you understand the meaning of Baptism. Your Minister will be glad to discuss the matter with you and answer any questions you may have.

# Ballyrashane Presbyterian Church



## The Baptism of Children In the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

