

Four good reasons to choose baptism

Every year more than 35 000 babies are baptised in the Church of Norway. Many children, young people and adults also choose to be baptised. There are many good reasons for that. Here are four of them:



1. TRADITION

No matter why you choose baptism, you also choose to participate in a tradition that has been important to people for hundreds of years and still remains important today.



2. A PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER

In baptism you become part of something bigger. The person who is baptised is celebrated and is given a warm welcome into the fellowship of the parish where you live and by the Christian church, which is found around the world.

3. CELEBRATION

To many, baptism is about traditions, making good memories, to create a day for family and to have a point in life where a new beginning and a new life are celebrated.

4. OPEN TO ALL

Anyone can be baptised in the Church of Norway. All who are baptised will receive God's love, no matter what. But this is not a requirement and the choice is yours to make.

HOW TO SIGN UP AND OTHER INFORMATION

We collaborate with you to find out the best way forward for a beautiful baptism, whether this is during the Sunday church service or it is held on another day.

For more information:



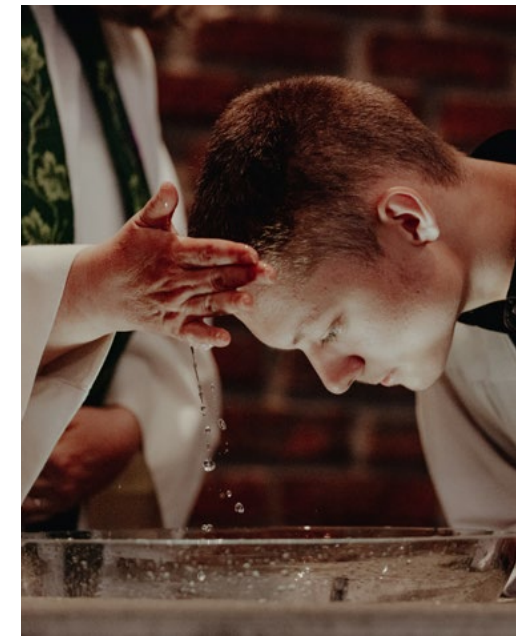
Welcome to baptism!

There's always a start, regardless of age.



CHURCH OF NORWAY

Welcome to baptism in



All photos belong to the Church of Norway. Photos: Von and Bo Mathisen

Baptism is a great tradition. It marks a new start and puts life into perspective. Being baptised connects us with God. In baptism you become part of the large community of the church.

FAITH AS A GIFT

In baptism we are blessed by God's love. We receive faith as a gift and our baptism gives us a part in God's salvation. Historically, the word salvation has its origin from when slaves were set free. In baptism we are also set free to a whole new life and a hope that life conquers death and evil.

ANYONE CAN BE BAPTISED

Anyone can be baptised, and baptism can take place at any age. Many children are baptised before they are one year old. There is no rule against adults, young people and older children being baptised. Baptism takes place during an ordinary service or at a special baptism service. Baptism is a festive occasion that is steeped in tradition!

SELECTING GODPARENTS

Many find it an honour to be chosen as a godparent. When a person is baptised, they must have at least two godparents. A godparent must have turned 15 years of age and, as a main rule, they must be a member of the Church of Norway. Members of other church communities can be godparents as long as they accept children being baptised. When baptizing babies, the parents decide who will be the godparents. It is most common to choose from family and friends. The godparents and the congregation have a joint responsibility to care for the person who is baptised and help them to live and grow in their Christian faith.

PRE-BAPTISM CONVERSATION

Before the baptism, an appointment will be made to have a conversation with those who have chosen for the baptism to occur. This is called a pre-baptism conversation. This conversation can either be held individually or in a group with others who have chosen to be baptised. The discussion is about what baptism is and what it means, what happens in church during the baptism and you are given the opportunity to ask any questions you might have.

WHEN AND WHERE

DIFFERENT WAYS OF CELEBRATING

The Church of Norway encourages as many as possible to be baptised, regardless of their age. Some choose to invite family and friends to the church and others have a party or gathering afterwards, but how you choose to celebrate the baptism day is entirely up to you.

EXPLORE THE FAITH

Through baptism and familiarity with the faith you will have a basis to make an independent decision. The congregation has many activities for children, young people and adults, which also provides the opportunity to explore what being baptised means and what the Christian faith is all about. The congregation is also a fellowship which allows us to share our beliefs in the company of others. Spending time with others is important, no matter what phase of life we find ourselves in.