



mountpleasant  
baptist church

# CHILD DEDICATION BOOKLET

*together*







Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Deuteronomy 6:5-7

## **Congratulations!**

We are so excited for you as you take this step of dedicating your child. It will be our honour, not only to pray a prayer of blessing over your child, but also to stand with you as you continue the journey of parenting. It is our desire to partner with you as we encourage and equip you to be godly parents through this journey as you seek to raise your child to know, love and serve Jesus Christ.

We have prepared the following information regarding the dedication process for you to read through. If you have any additional questions, or need clarification, please feel free to call and speak to the Children and Families Pastor.

## **What is child dedication?**

The origins of this ceremony go back several thousand years to a moment when a Jewish woman named Hannah was unable to conceive. She cried out to the Lord for a child, and when God answered her prayer, she responded by dedicating her child to God's purpose.

I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. So now I give him to the Lord. For his whole life he shall be given over to the Lord. And he worshipped the Lord there.

1 Samuel 1:27-28

Jesus' parents, Mary and Joseph also took Jesus to the Temple when he was just an infant and presented Him to the Lord.

The time came for Mary and Joseph to do what the law of Moses taught about being made pure. They took Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. Luke 2:22 (ICB)



## **The Purpose of Child Dedication at Mounties**

- Parents present their child to God in an act of thanksgiving and dedication to God's purposes.
- Together as a family, they worship God.
- Spiritual leaders bless, pray over, and declare God's best for the child.
- Parents and their child begin their journey together confident that they are walking under the full blessings of God.

Here is how the dedication moment of Jesus concludes:

The little child began to grow up. He became stronger and wiser, and God's blessings were with him. Luke 2:40 (ICB)

## **The Practice of Child Dedication at Mounties**

Child dedications generally occur following the opening songs of the Sunday morning service before the Pastor's message. We ask that you arrive shortly before the service begins and that you find a seat in the front section of the auditorium near the platform. Your extended family are welcome to sit with you. The pastor will invite you to the platform and take a moment to introduce each of the parents and children. You will be asked by the pastor if you are making the commitment outlined in this brochure. You will respond accordingly. Following the commitments made before God and the congregation, the pastor will take the opportunity to pray for you as parents as well as for your child. During this prayer, the pastor may use the verse you selected to declare God's promises over their lives. The entire congregation is invited to agree in prayer for God's blessing to be poured out upon your child's life.

## The commitments

By coming before God and His people, you are declaring your desire to dedicate yourselves and your child to the Lord and that you enter into the following commitment in the presence of God and his people.

So that your child may walk in the abundant life that Christ offers, do you commit with God's help and in partnership with the church,

- to provide your child with a Christian home of love and peace,
- to raise them in the truth of our Lord's instruction and discipline,
- to champion the cause of Christ in their life and in so doing, encourage them to trust Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord?

The pastor will then turn to the congregation and say – we are not simply celebrating the gift of a child and the commitment of the parents today. We are embracing our responsibility to support families by teaching God's Word, serving one another in love, training disciples of Jesus and pointing others to Christ. We understand the importance of maintaining an atmosphere that inspires faith, challenges growth and provides opportunities for service. While no church is perfect in all it provides for parents and children, the commitment of our community is to do all we can to raise both you and your child to be fully devoted followers of Jesus.

## **The difference between child dedication and infant baptism**

In many Christian traditions it is customary to hold a 'baptism' of an infant, rather than a 'dedication.' In the Bible (Matthew 19) we see Jesus holding children, praying for them and asking us to welcome them. Our understanding of Scripture is that Baptism is an expression of personal faith in Christ. The dedication service is designed to express our thanks for our children and pray that God will bless and guide them and that they will come to know Him as their Lord and Saviour in the years ahead.

### *What's the same?*

- Parents present their child to God.
- A pastor prays over that child.
- The congregation witnesses the moment and agrees in prayer over the child.
- The Holy Spirit marks this moment in the child's life as a moment when they were intentionally dedicated to God's purpose.

### *What's different?*

Dedication services at Mounties do not include water baptism. In the New Testament baptism was always a step of obedience taken by the believer in Jesus, to identify with Christ's death, burial and resurrection. The word 'baptise' means 'to dip under'.

We believe that baptism is for those who have repented of their sins and have trusted Christ as their Saviour. Since a young child is unable to understand their need for repentance, we do not practice infant baptism. Additional resources are available about the purpose of baptism.

## **How do I organise to have my child dedicated?**

Dedications are scheduled once a term during the Sunday morning worship services and you can enquire about the dates by contacting the church office via [contact@mounties.org.au](mailto:contact@mounties.org.au).

Once you have chosen a date, please email the Children and Families Pastor Mim Hosking at [mim.hosking@mounties.org.au](mailto:mim.hosking@mounties.org.au) to confirm the dedication date.

The Children and Families Pastor will be available to meet with the family to answer any questions and explain the process for the service. In celebrating your child's dedication, we would love to have a photo of the child to display on the screen during the dedication. Please email this to the church office at least two weeks prior to the service date.

For more information you can contact the Children and Families Pastor to discuss this important step.

You can do this by phoning 9329 1777 or via email [mim.hosking@mounties.org.au](mailto:mim.hosking@mounties.org.au)

Child dedication is open to children of all ages.

## **What can I expect from Mount Pleasant Baptist Church after the dedication?**

We want to be partners with you in raising a GREAT young man or woman. We want to stand with you in your journey as a parent. As the African Proverb states: "It takes a village to raise a child". Knowing that you have a church family praying for you as you parent is important. It is also important that your child has an opportunity to meet together with other children and be engaged in an intergenerational faith community who are learning more about Jesus or who already know Him as their friend and Saviour.

1. Children and Youth Ministries - available from toddlers through to age 18 with several pastors on staff devoted to investing in your children.
2. Tools, Teaching, and Resources - we also want to be a source of help in how to do life and relationships. Our weekend services, connect groups and a variety of resources are all designed to be of practical support. Resources are available through Seeds (Book Shop), The Reading Room and specific events for parents.
3. Pastoral Care, Prayer, and mentoring - if you ever need to talk through an issue, need prayer, or want some mentoring - our staff are always available for you.



**Child dedication application (when you email us in regards to child dedication, please supply us with the following details)**

- Father's Name
- Mother's Name
- Address
- Father's Mobile
- Father's Email
- Mother's Mobile
- Mother's Email
- Full Name of Child to be dedicated
- DOB
- Gender
- Date of dedication
- Sibling's names

To personalise your child's dedication please let us know if there is anything you would like to share. For example:

Does the child's name have any special significance?

What is your vision for your child's life?

What are you praying for your child that we could pray with you?

Is there anything that you would like to share with the congregation as your child is dedicated?

Is there a special scripture you have for your child?

Do you have a preferred pastor to conduct the child dedication?  
(One of the ministry leaders you have a connection with is recommended.)

Please submit a photo of your child for the dedication service. You can email the photo with the application to [ina-marie.robinson@mounties.org.au](mailto:ina-marie.robinson@mounties.org.au)

Biblical promises/blessings to review and potentially select for the dedication:



### **Psalm 1:1-3 (ERV)**

<sup>1</sup> Great blessings belong to those  
    who don't listen to evil advice,  
who don't live like sinners,  
    and who don't join those who make fun of God.  
<sup>2</sup> Instead, they love the Lord's teachings  
    and think about them day and night.  
<sup>3</sup> So they grow strong,  
    like a tree planted by a stream—  
a tree that produces fruit when it should  
    and has leaves that never fall.  
Everything they do is successful.

### **Psalm 121:5-8 (ICB)**

<sup>5</sup> The Lord guards you.  
    The Lord protects you as the shade protects you from the sun.  
<sup>6</sup> The sun cannot hurt you during the day.  
    And the moon cannot hurt you at night.  
<sup>7</sup> The Lord will guard you from all dangers.  
    He will guard your life.  
<sup>8</sup> The Lord will guard you as you come and go,  
    both now and forever.

### **Ephesians 3:14-19 (ICB)**

<sup>14</sup> So I bow in prayer before the Father. <sup>15</sup> Every family in heaven and on earth gets its true name from him. <sup>16</sup> I ask the Father in his great glory to give you the power to be strong in spirit. He will give you that strength through his Spirit. <sup>17</sup> I pray that Christ will live in your hearts because of your faith. I pray that your life will be strong in love and be built on love. <sup>18</sup> And I pray that you and all God's holy people will have the power to understand the greatness of

Christ's love. I pray that you can understand how wide and how long and how high and how deep that love is. <sup>19</sup>Christ's love is greater than any person can ever know. But I pray that you will be able to know that love. Then you can be filled with the fullness of God.

### **Hebrews 13:20-21 (TPT)**

<sup>20</sup>Now may the God who brought us peace by raising from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ so that he would be the Great Shepherd of his flock; and by the power of the blood of the eternal covenant <sup>21</sup>may he work perfection into every part of you giving you all that you need to fulfill your destiny. And may he express through you all that is excellent and pleasing to him through your life-union with Jesus the Anointed One who is to receive all glory forever! Amen!

### **1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 (ICB)**

<sup>23</sup>We pray that God himself, the God of peace, will make you pure, belonging only to him. We pray that your whole self—spirit, soul, and body—will be kept safe and be without wrong when our Lord Jesus Christ comes. <sup>24</sup>The One who calls you will do that for you. You can trust him.

### **2 Thessalonians 1:11-12 (TPT)**

<sup>11</sup>With this in mind, we constantly pray that our God will empower you to live worthy of all that he has invited you to experience. And we pray that by his power all the pleasures of goodness and all works inspired by faith would fill you completely. <sup>12</sup>By doing this the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you, and you will be

glorified in him, by the *marvelous* grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

## **2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 (TPT)**

<sup>16</sup> Now may the Lord Jesus Christ and our Father God, who loved us and in his wonderful grace gave us eternal comfort and a beautiful hope that cannot fail, <sup>17</sup> encourage your hearts and inspire you with strength to always do and speak what is good and beautiful *in his eyes*.

## **Colossians 1:9-12 (ICB)**

<sup>9</sup> Since the day we heard this about you, we have continued praying for you. We ask God that you will know fully what God wants. We pray that you will also have great wisdom and understanding in spiritual things. <sup>10</sup> Then you will live the kind of life that honours and pleases the Lord in every way. You will produce fruit in every good work and grow in the knowledge of God. <sup>11</sup> Then God will strengthen you with his own great power. And you will not give up when troubles come, but you will be patient. <sup>12</sup> Then you will joyfully give thanks to the Father. He has made you able to have all that he has prepared for his people who live in the light.

## **Ephesians 6:10-17 (ICB)**

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his great power. <sup>11</sup> Wear the full armour of God. Wear God's armour so that you can fight against the devil's evil tricks. <sup>12</sup> Our fight is not against people on earth. We are fighting against the rulers and authorities and the powers of this world's darkness. We are fighting against the spiritual powers of evil in the heavenly world. <sup>13</sup> That is why you



need to get God's full armour. Then on the day of evil you will be able to stand strong. And when you have finished the whole fight, you will still be standing. <sup>14</sup> So stand strong, with the belt of truth tied around your waist. And on your chest wear the protection of right living. <sup>15</sup> And on your feet wear the Good News of peace to help you stand strong. <sup>16</sup> And also use the shield of faith. With that you can stop all the burning arrows of the Evil One. <sup>17</sup> Accept God's salvation to be your helmet. And take the sword of the Spirit—that sword is the teaching of God.

### **Romans 15:13 (TPT)**

<sup>13</sup> Now may God, the inspiration and fountain of hope, fill you to overflowing with uncontainable joy and perfect peace as you trust in him. And may the power of the Holy Spirit continually surround your life with his super-abundance until you radiate with hope!





**mountpleasant**  
baptist church