



Welcome to you and your child!

This leaflet explains what we offer and how we can help.

Since the birth of your child you have no doubt run a whole range of emotions... regardless of how long has passed since that amazing event. You feel elated, relieved, perhaps even scared at what this miraculous bundle of life will mean for you. You feel thankful for a new life. You wonder what your baby will grow to look like, what he or she will be like. And you wonder what sort of world you have brought your child into.

At Holy Trinity, we offer two ceremonies that aim to help you express your feelings and hopes for your child.

Useful Contacts at Holy Trinity

The office can be reached at 02/511.71.83 or
admin@holytrinity.be (Diane Robson)

The Clergy are:

John Wilkinson (john.wilkinson@holytrinity.be)
Chris Martin

Two Kinds of Services...

Either: Service of Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child

At this service you have an opportunity to say “Thank you” to God for the gift of your child and publicly to name him or her. Your child will be presented with a children’s book about Jesus. Your friends and family have a chance to express their love and support. And all of us ask for God’s blessing on your little one as he or she grows up. No water is used. Sometimes people call this a ‘dedication’ service. This service is used when parents do not feel ready to make the promises in baptism or when they prefer their baby to be baptized when he or she is older.

Or: Service of Baptism

In baptism your baby is welcomed into the life of the church. Parents and godparents make promises to bring your baby up as a Christian within the church. Your child is signed with the cross on the forehead. Water is poured over your baby’s head in the name of the Holy Trinity. A baptism at Holy Trinity is recognized by all the other main Belgian churches, both Catholic and Protestant.



Practical:

How do we arrange a Service?

You need to make an appointment with one of our clergy. At that meeting, we will want to get to know you and to help you decide whether Holy Trinity is the right place for you to come for a Baptism or Thanksgiving. We will then agree a date with you. We appreciate that many of our families are scattered across different countries so arranging a date can be hard. Whilst we try to be flexible, please be aware that we organize our church calendar three months ahead and we cannot guarantee to offer you a particular date.

Preparing for Baptism

After you have booked a baptism with us, the minister will usually want to meet with you to go over the service. This meeting may be at your home or at church. Because our families live across Brussels and beyond, it isn't practical for us to run baptism preparation classes. But we are pleased to recommend books or CDs if you want help with bringing up your child in the Christian faith. To begin, you might read "the Parenting Book" by Nicky and Sila Lee available from our Church Bookstall or Amazon.

When do Services take place?

We normally dedicate or baptize babies at our main Sunday services at 10:30 or 14:00. Sometimes we organize a separate family occasion on a Saturday.

The Service itself...

Our Sunday morning service is large and quite formal. We do a part of the baptism liturgy at 10:15 for just immediate family in a vestry next to the church. The baptism itself is at 10:30 in church with the whole congregation. To be respectful of the worshipping atmosphere, we ask that you avoid flash photography and don't take photos after the baptism itself is completed.

Our afternoon service is African in style. It is joyous and informal. We don't restrict photography in any way at this service.

How much does it cost?

We don't make a charge for thanksgivings or baptisms. But Holy Trinity costs our regular worshippers about 5000euros a week to run, and if you'd like to make a donation towards the church (our account is 'Clergy and Friends of HTB 310-0344153-83') this is of course welcome.

What else does Holy Trinity offer?

We have lots of children in our church and we are committed to their nurture. Our 10:30 service has a staffed and well-equipped crèche. We have groups for children at our morning and afternoon services. If you live in Brussels, we hope that you will want to bring your child to Sunday school. By offering your child for baptism you set a compass direction for your child's life. But this is just the beginning of a lifelong journey with God...