

## **Baptism of adults**

All Christian denominations that practice baptism incorporate a rite for the baptism of adults. Among the Anglican, Catholic and Orthodox Churches the majority of people are baptised as children, however, among some other Protestant Churches infant baptism is not practiced at all. These Churches believe that baptism should be conferred only after a person has made a **conscious decision** to believe in Jesus Christ. Thus these Churches, such as the **Baptist Church**, and most **Pentecostal Churches** such as Assemblies of God, practice adult baptism, also known as **believer baptism**.

### **Baptist tradition:**

In the Baptist tradition, believer baptism would normally be held as part of the **Sunday worship** service. Most Baptist Churches are designed with a baptismal area to allow for the **full immersion** of believers. This is usually at the front of the Church and adjacent to enclosed areas to allow those being baptised to prepare by dressing in a baptismal garment and also to change from the wet garments after the baptism.

The Baptist service often includes a **testimony** by the person being baptised who publicly declares their **faith in Jesus**.

### **Pentecostal Churches:**

In Pentecostal Churches there are few set patterns or rites, however, baptism is usually done through **full immersion** and many Pentecostal groups will carry out baptisms in **public places** such as beaches, rivers and lakes where full immersion can be practiced. They may also decide to use a swimming pool for the rite.