



**OUR SINGAPORE:**  
ONE PEOPLE, MANY CULTURES.

Baptism ceremony at Faith Community Baptist Church

The cross is an important symbol in Christianity. It represents the wooden cross on which Jesus was crucified – an ancient form of torture. To Christians, the cross symbolises Jesus' sacrifice for mankind and his ultimate triumph over sin and death when he rose from the dead.

The oldest church building in Singapore is the Armenian Church, located on Hill Street. It was built in 1835. The church building in this picture is much newer, equipped with modern theatre-like speakers and lights. These are useful because music is an important part of most Christian services. To lead the singing, churches often have choirs or soloists and even bands.

Water is commonly used as a symbol in various faiths. Christians use water in their baptism ceremonies. Their church buildings often have a special area for this purpose. In this church, the baptismal pool is large enough for the whole body to be immersed. Other churches have much smaller basins, called baptismal fonts: the priest pours water from the basin onto the head of the person being baptised. Some baptism ceremonies in Singapore take place at the beach.

In this church's baptism ceremony, the follower allows himself to be immersed in water for a brief moment. Baptism is a time for Christians to show that they want to be followers of Jesus, the founder of the faith. The tradition comes from the Christian Bible. The prophet John foretold the coming of Jesus. Jesus was baptised by John in the Jordan River.

This follower is about to be baptised. Facing his family and other members of the church, he makes a declaration of his faith. Baptism is like a public announcement that the person is a Christian. When infants are baptised, their parents speak for them.

The baptism is done by an authorised member of the church, such as a pastor. A pastor is a religious leader who conducts worship in church. He gives his blessings to the person being baptised and says a short prayer.

Picture and research: ADELINE ONG

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