

The Priest then blesses the fathers:

Priest: God is the giver of all life, human and divine. May he bless the fathers of these children. With their wives they will be the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith. May they be also the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do, in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Lastly, the Priest blesses the assembled congregation:

Priest: By God's gift, through water and the Holy Spirit, we are reborn to everlasting life. In his goodness, may he continue to pour out his blessings upon all here present, who are his sons and daughters. May he make them always, wherever they may be, faithful members of his holy people. May he send his peace upon all who are gathered here, in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

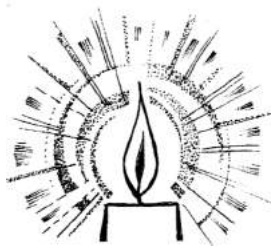
Dismissal

Priest: May almighty God bless you all,
the Father, and the Son,
✠ and the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: Go in the peace, glorifying the Lord
by your life.

All: **Thanks be to God.**



THE RITE OF BAPTISM

for several children



*Catholic Church of
Our Lady of Lourdes & St Gerard Majella
Lostock Hall • Preston*

Please do not remove this booklet from the church.

Thank you.

RITE OF BAPTISM OUTSIDE MASS

RECEPTION OF THE CHILDREN

Priest: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Priest: The grace and peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: **And with your Spirit.**

The Priest questions the parents of each child in turn:

Priest: What name have you given your child?

Parents: **N.**

Priest: What do you ask of God's Church for N?

Parents: **Baptism.**

The Priest then says to all the parents:

Priest: You have asked to have your children baptised. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training them in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring your children up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

Parents: **We do.**

The Priest says to all the godparents:

Priest: Godparents, are you ready to help these parents in their duty as Christian mothers and fathers?

The godparents reply: **We are.**

The Priest now says to the children:

Priest: My dear children, the Christian community welcomes you with great joy. In its name I claim you for Christ our Saviour by the sign of his cross.

CONCLUSION OF THE RITE

The Lord's Prayer

Priest: Dearly beloved, these children have been reborn in baptism. They are now called children of God, for so indeed they are. In confirmation they will receive the fullness of God's Spirit. In holy communion they will share the banquet of Christ's sacrifice, calling God their Father in the midst of the Church. In their name, in the spirit of adopted children, let us pray together in the words our Saviour taught us:

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us
our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
against us and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.**

Blessings

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your Spirit**

The Priest now blesses the mothers, who hold their children in their arms:

Priest: God the Father, through his Son, the Virgin Mary's child, has brought joy to all Christian mothers, as they see the hope of eternal life shine on their children. May he bless the mothers of these children. They now thank God for the gift of their children. May they be one with them in thanking God forever in heaven, in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

EXPLANATORY RITES

Anointing with Sacred Chrism

Priest: The God of power and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, and brought you to new life through water and the Holy Spirit. He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation, so that, united with his people, you may remain for ever a member of Christ, who is Priest, Prophet, and King.

All: **Amen.**

The Priest anoints each child on the crown of the head with the Sacred Chrism, in silence.

Clothing with a White Garment

Priest: N & N, you have become a new creation, and have clothed yourselves in Christ. See in this white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity. With your family and friends to help you by word and example, bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven.

All: **Amen.**

The Lighted Candle

A Baptismal Candle is lit from the burning Easter Candle and then given to one of the parents or godparents to hold on each child's behalf.

Priest: Receive the light of Christ.

Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. These children have been enlightened by Christ. They are to walk always as children of the light. May they keep the flame of faith alive in their hearts. When the Lord comes, may they go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.

I now trace the cross on your foreheads, and invite your parents and godparents to do the same.

The Priest makes the sign of the cross on each child's forehead with his thumb, and then its parents and godparents do likewise.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

All listen attentively to the scripture passages which are read. These tell us of what God has revealed to us about baptism, and of the new life—a share in God's life—that is to be given to the children.

First Reading

1. *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans (6:3–5)*

When we were baptised in Christ Jesus we were baptised in his death; in other words, when we were baptised we went into the tomb with him and joined him in death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the Father's glory, we too might live a new life. If in union with Christ we have imitated his death, we shall also imitate him in his resurrection.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

2. *A reading from the first letter of St John (3:1–2)*

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. My dear people, we are already the children of God, but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

3. *A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians (12:12–13)*

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make up one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

4. *A reading from the first letter of St Peter (2: 4–5, 9–10)*

Jesus Christ is the living stone, rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy Priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which Jesus Christ has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house.

You are a chosen race, a royal Priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God, who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people at all and now you are the People of God; once you were outside the mercy and now you have been given mercy.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

5. *A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians (3:14–19)*

This is what I pray, kneeling before the Father, from whom every family, whether spiritual or natural, takes its name:

Out of his infinite glory, may he give you the power through his Spirit for your hidden self to grow strong, so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built on love, you will with all the saints have strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; until knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond all knowledge, you are filled with the utter fullness of God.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

Parents and Godparents: **I do.**

Priest: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting?

Parents and Godparents: **I do.**

Priest: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The Baptism

The Priest invites the first of the families to the font, and addresses the parents and godparents:

Priest: Is it your will that N should be baptised in the faith of the Church, which we have all professed with you?

The parents and godparents reply: **It is.**

The Priest baptises the child, saying:

Priest: N, I baptise you in the name of the Father,

He pours water upon the child,:

and of the Son,

He pours water upon the child a second time:

and of the Holy Spirit.

He pours water upon the child a third time. He then asks the same question and performs the same action for each child in turn.

Renunciation of Sin

Priest: Dear parents and godparents: you have come here to present these children for baptism. By water and the Holy Spirit they are to receive the gift of new life from God, who is love.

On your part, you must make it your constant care to bring them up in the practice of the faith. See that the divine life which God gives them is kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow always stronger in their hearts.

If your faith makes you ready to accept this responsibility, renew now the vows of your own baptism. Reject sin; profess your faith in Christ Jesus. This is the faith of the Church. This is the faith in which these children are about to be baptised.

*The Priest questions the parents and godparents:
(all those baptised can answer in the same way)*

Do you reject sin, so as to live in the freedom of God's children?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

Priest: Do you reject the glamour of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

Priest: Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

Profession of Faith

(All those baptised can make their profession of faith in the same way)

Priest: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

Responsorial Psalm

Please repeat the response after the reader, and after each verse of Psalm 22 (23).

Reader: The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

All respond: **The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.**

Reader: The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me,
to revive my drooping spirit.

Reader: He guides me along the right path;
he is true to his name.
If I should walk in the valley of darkness,
no evil would I fear.
You are there with your crook and your staff;
with these you give me comfort. **Response**

Reader: You have prepared a banquet for me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **Response**

Reader: Surely goodness and kindness shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever. **Response**



Response

Gospel Acclamation

Stand

One of the following acclamations is said:

1. Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world says the Lord. The one who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!
2. Alleluia, alleluia! The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Alleluia!
3. (*In Lent*). Glory and praise to you, O Christ. Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

Gospel Reading

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with your Spirit.**

Priest: A reading from
the holy gospel according to St N.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

One of the following gospel passages is read.

1. Mark 10:13–16

People were bringing little children to Jesus, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



Prayers of invocation

Priest: Father, God of mercy, through these waters of baptism you have filled us with new life as your very own children.

All: **Blessed be God.**

Priest: From all who are baptised in water and the Holy Spirit you have formed one people, united in your Son, Jesus Christ.

All: **Blessed be God.**

Priest: You have set us free and filled our hearts with the Spirit of your love, that we may live in your peace.

All: **Blessed be God.**

Priest: You call those who have been baptised to announce the Good News of Jesus Christ to people everywhere.

All: **Blessed be God.**

Blessing of the baptismal water

Priest: You have called your children, N & N, to this cleansing water and new birth that by sharing the faith of your Church they might have eternal life. Bless ✠ this water in which they will be baptised. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

If the water has already been blessed, the Priest says instead:

Priest: You have called your children, N & N, to this cleansing water that they may share in the faith of your Church and have eternal life. By the mystery of this consecrated water lead them to a new and spiritual birth. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

PREPARATORY RITES

Prayer of Exorcism

Priest: Almighty and ever-living God, you sent your only Son into the world to cast out the power of Satan, spirit of evil, to deliver us from the kingdom of darkness, and bring us into the splendour of your kingdom of light. We pray for these children: set them free from original sin, make them temples of your glory, and send your Holy Spirit to dwell within them. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Anointing before Baptism

Priest: We anoint you with the oil of salvation in the name of Christ our Saviour: may he strengthen you with his power, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

The Priest anoints each child on the breast with the Oil of Catechumens, to strengthen it with the power of Christ.

CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

At the font the Priest reminds those present of the wonderful work of God, whose plan it is to sanctify us, body and soul, through water. He may use these or similar words:

Priest: My dear people, God uses the sacrament of water to give his divine life to those who believe in him. Let us turn to him, and ask him to pour his gift of life from this font on the children he has chosen.

2. John 3:1–6

There was one of the Pharisees called Nicodemus, a leading Jew, who came to Jesus by night and said, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who comes from God; for no one could perform the signs that you do unless God were with him.’

Jesus answered: ‘I tell you most solemnly, unless a man is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’

Nicodemus said, ‘How can a grown man be born? Can he go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?’

Jesus replied: ‘I tell you most solemnly, unless a man is born through water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God: what is born of the flesh is flesh; what is born of the Spirit is spirit.’

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

3. Matthew 28:18–20

Jesus came up and spoke to his disciples. He said: ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you. And know that I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.’

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

4. Mark 1:9–11

Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.’

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

Sit

A short homily or instruction is now given, at the end of which the Priest may invite those present to pray silently for a short time.

Bidding Prayers

Stand

The intercessions follow, with these or similar invocations:

Priest: My dear people, let us ask our Lord Jesus Christ to look lovingly on these children who are to be baptised, on their parents and godparents, and on all the baptised.

Reader: By the mystery of your death and resurrection, bathe these children in light, give them the new life of baptism and welcome them into your holy Church. We pray:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Through baptism and confirmation, make them your faithful followers and witnesses to your gospel. We pray:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Lead them by a holy life to the joys of God's kingdom. We pray:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Make the lives of their parents and godparents examples of faith to inspire these children. We pray:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Keep their families always in your love. We pray:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reader: Renew the grace of our baptism in each one of us. We pray:

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**



Invocation of the Saints

Priest: Holy Mary, Mother of God:
All: **Pray for us.**

Priest: St John the Baptist:
All: **Pray for us.**

Priest: St Joseph:
All: **Pray for us.**

Priest: St Peter and St Paul:
All: **Pray for us.**

Priest: St Gerard Majella:
All: **Pray for us.**



(Here he may add the names of other patron saints, e.g. those of the children and of the place:)

Priest: Saint N:
All: **Pray for us.**

Priest: All holy men and women:
All: **Pray for us.**

