

THE RITE OF BAPTISM

of one child

The priest then blesses the father:

Priest: God is the giver of all life, human and divine. May he bless the father of this child. He and his wife will be the first teachers of their child 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 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.**

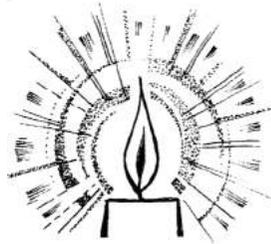
Dismissal

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

All: **Amen.**

Priest: Go in the peace of Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**



*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 CHILD

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 also with you.**

The priest questions the parents of the child, in these or similar words:

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 says to the parents:

Priest: You have asked to have your child baptised. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him/her in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring your child 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 the godparents:

Priest: Godparents, are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian mothers and fathers?

The godparents reply: **We are.**

The priest now says to the child:

Priest: N, 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, this child has been reborn in baptism. He/she is now called the child of God, for so indeed he/she is. In confirmation he/she will receive the fullness of God's Spirit. In holy communion he/she will share the banquet of Christ's sacrifice, calling God his/her Father in the midst of the Church. In the name of this child, in the spirit of adopted children, let us pray together in the words our Lord has given 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

The priest now blesses the mother, who holds her child in her 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 mother of this child. She now thanks God for the gift of her child. May she be one with him/her 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 the child on the crown of the head with the Sacred Chrism, in silence.

Clothing with a White Garment

Priest: N, you have become a new creation, and have clothed yourself 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 the child's behalf.

Priest: Receive the light of Christ.

Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. This child has been enlightened by Christ. He/She is to walk always as a child of the light. May he/she keep the flame of faith alive in his/her heart. When the Lord comes, may he/she go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.

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

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 child.

First Reading

One of the following New Testament passages is read.

1. *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.**

2. *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.**

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 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. *Go to the bottom of the page.*

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.

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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 family to the font and questions 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.

Renunciation of Sin

Priest: Dear parents and godparents: you have come here to present this child for baptism. By water and the Holy Spirit he/she is to receive the gift of new life from God, who is love.

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

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 this child is about to be baptised.

The priest questions the parents and godparents:

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

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. *Response*

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*

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. Alleluia, alleluia! "Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!"

Note: In Lent, 'Alleluia' is replaced by 'Glory and praise to you, O Christ.'

Gospel Reading

Priest: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

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

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

One of the following gospel passages is read:

1. 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?'

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 child, N, to this cleansing water and new birth that by sharing the faith of your Church he/she might have eternal life. Bless ✠ this water in which he/she will be baptised. We ask this in the name of Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

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

Priest: You have called your child, N, to this cleansing water that he/she may share in the faith of your Church and have eternal life. By the mystery of this consecrated water lead him/her 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 this child: set him/her free from original sin, make him/her a temple of your glory, and send your Holy Spirit to dwell within him/her. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Anointing

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 the child on the breast with the Oil of Catechumens, to strengthen it with the power of Christ.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

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 this child he has chosen.

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.'

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2. 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.'

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3. 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.'

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4. 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.

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Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Homily

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

The intercessions follow, with these or similar invocations:

Priest: My dear people, let us ask our Lord Jesus Christ to look lovingly on this child who is to be baptised, on his/her parents and godparents, and on all the baptised.

Reader: By the mystery of your death and resurrection, bathe this child in light, give him/her the new life of baptism and welcome him/her into your holy Church. We pray:

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

Reader: Through baptism and confirmation, make him/her your faithful follower and a witness to your gospel. We pray:

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

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

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

Reader: Make the lives of his/her parents and godparents examples of faith to inspire this child. We pray:

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

Reader: Keep his/her family 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 child and of the place:

Priest: Saint N:

All: **Pray for us.**

Priest: All holy men and women:

All: **Pray for us.**

