



# The Rite of Baptism

## for Infants and Children



### RECEPTION OF THE CHILD

*Stand*

*The people may sing a psalm or a hymn while the celebrating priest goes to the entrance of the church or to that part of the church where the parents and godparents are waiting with the child.*

*The celebrant greets all present. Then he questions the parents:*

*Celebrant:* What name do you give your child?

*Parents:* **N.**

*Celebrant:* What do you ask of God's Church for N.?

*Parents:* **Baptism.**

*The celebrant addresses the parents in these or similar words:*

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 him (her) 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.**

*Then the celebrant turns to the godparents:*

Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents?

*Godparents:* **We are.**

*Celebrant:* 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. I now trace the cross on your forehead, and invite your parents (and godparents) to do the same.

*He signs the child on the forehead, in silence. Then he invites the parents (and the godparents) to do the same.*

### CELEBRATION OF GOD'S WORD

*Sit*

*One or even two gospel passages are read, during which all may sit.'*

*After the reading the celebrant gives a short homily.*

### Intercessions – The Bidding Prayers

*Celebrant:* My dear brothers and sisters, 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. Lord, hear us.

*All:* **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Reader:* Through baptism and confirmation, make him (her) your faithful follower and a witness to your gospel. Lord, hear us.

*All:* **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Reader:* Lead him (her) by a holy life to the joys of God's kingdom. Lord, hear us.

*All:* **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Reader:* Make the lives of his (her) parents and godparents' examples of faith to inspire this child. Lord, hear us.

*All:* **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Reader:* Keep his (her) family always in your love. Lord, hear us.

*All:* **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Reader:* Renew the grace of our baptism in each one of us. Lord, hear us.

*All:* **Lord, graciously hear us.**

*The celebrant next invites all present to invoke the saints.*

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

Saint John the Baptist: **Pray for Us.**

Saint Joseph: **Pray for Us.**

Saint Peter and Saint Paul: **Pray for Us.**

*The names of other Saints may be added.*

*The litany concludes:*

All holy men and women: **Pray for Us.**

## **PRAYER OF EXORCISM AND ANOINTING BEFORE BAPTISM**

*After the invocation, the celebrant says:*

Almighty and ever-living God, I you sent your only Son into the world I to cast out the power of Satan, spirit of evil, I to rescue man from the kingdom of darkness, I and bring him into the splendour of your kingdom of light. I We pray for this child: I set him (her) free from original sin, I make him (her) a temple of your glory, I and send your Holy Spirit to dwell in him (her). I (We ask this) through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

*The celebrant continues:*

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

**All: Amen.**

*He anoints the child on the breast with the oil of catechumens.*

## **CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT**

*All proceed to the Baptistry. A hymn or psalm may be sung.*

*Celebrant:* My dear brothers and sisters, we now ask God to give this child new life in abundance through water and the Holy Spirit.

### **Blessing and Invocation of God over Baptismal Water**

*(Other forms of this blessing may be used)*

*Celebrant:* Praise to you, almighty God and Father, for you have created water to cleanse and to give life.

**All: Blessed be God.**

*Celebrant:* Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son, for you offered yourself on the cross, that in the blood and water flowing from your side, and through your death and resurrection, the Church might be born.

**All: Blessed be God.**

*Celebrant:* Praise to you, God the Holy Spirit, for you anointed Christ at his baptism in the waters of Jordan, so that we might all be baptised into you.

**All: Blessed be God.**

*Celebrant:* Come to us, Lord, Father of all, and make holy this water which you have created, so that all who are baptised in it may be washed clean of sin and be born again to live as your children.

**All: Hear us, Lord.**

*Celebrant:* Make this water holy, Lord, so that all who are baptised into Christ's death and resurrection by this water may become more perfectly like your Son.

**All: Hear us, Lord.**

*The celebrant touches the water with his right hand and continues:*

Lord, make holy this water which you have created, so that all those whom you have chosen may be born again by the power of the Holy Spirit, and may take their place among your holy people.

**All: Hear us, Lord.**

*If the baptismal water has already been blessed, the celebrant omits the invocation, and says:*

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.**

### **Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith**

*Celebrant:* 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.

*All stand. The celebrant questions the parents and godparents:*

*Celebrant:* Do you reject Satan?

*Parents and godparents:* **I do.**

*Celebrant:* And all his works?

*Parents and godparents:* **I do.**

*Celebrant:* And all his empty promises?

*Parents and godparents:* **I do.**

*Next the celebrant asks for the threefold profession of faith from the parents and godparents:*

*Celebrant:* Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

*Parents and godparents:* **I do.**

*Celebrant:* 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.**

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

*Parents and godparents:* **I do.**

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

*All:* **Amen.**

## **Baptism**

*The celebrant invites the family to the font and questions the parents and godparents:*

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

*Parents and godparents:* **It is.**

*He baptises the child, saying:*

N., I baptise you in the name of the Father,

*He immerses the child or pours water upon him (her).*

and of the Son,

*He immerses the child or pours water upon him (her) a second time.*

and of the Holy Spirit.

*He immerses the child or pours water upon him (her) a third time.*

## **Anointing with Chrism**

*Then the celebrant says:*

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and welcomed you into his holy people. He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation. As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life.

*All:* **Amen.**

*Then the celebrant anoints the child on the crown of the head with the sacred chrism, in silence.*

## **Clothing with the White Garment**

*Celebrant:* 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 white garment is put on the child.*

## **The Lighted Candle**

*The celebrant takes the Easter candle and says:*

Receive the light of Christ.

*Someone from the family (such as the father or godfather) lights the child's candle from the Easter candle.*

*The celebrant then says:*

Parents and godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. This child of yours 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.

## The Ephphatha

*The Ephphatha (Prayer over Ears and Mouth) may now follow. The celebrant touches the ears and mouth of the child with his thumb, saying:*

The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father.

**All: Amen.**

## CONCLUSION OF THE RITE

*Next there is a procession to the altar, unless the baptism was performed in the sanctuary. The lighted candle is carried for the child.*

*The following or an appropriate hymn may be sung.*

**You have put on Christ,  
in him you have been baptised.  
Alleluia, alleluia.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*The celebrant stands in front of the altar and addresses the parents, godparents, and the whole assembly in these or similar words:*

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 our common sonship, let us pray together in the words our Lord has given us:

*Stand*

*All present join the celebrant in singing or saying:*

**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.**

## The Blessing

*The celebrant first blesses the mother, who holds the child in her arms, then the father, and lastly the entire assembly. The text of the blessing may be varied, to meet the family circumstances:*

**Celebrant:** 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 him for ever in heaven, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

**Celebrant:** 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.**

**Celebrant:** 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 these sons and daughters of his. 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.**

**Celebrant:** May almighty God, the Father, ✠ and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you.

**All: Amen.**

## Notes:

At the conclusion of the Rite, family members and friend may join the parents/carers and godparent to celebrate the baptism of the child.



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