

Baptism



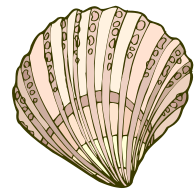
Baptism – a guide for Parents

Baptism is

- **Celebration** of a new life and a new life in Christ. Christians believe God is the creator of life and we are made in his image and that Jesus has opened a new way to a life giving relationship with God, through sharing in our humanity.
- **Commitment** to following the way of Jesus, the way of compassion, forgiveness and acceptance
- **Confession**- acknowledgement that we are not perfect - we get things wrong, but God loves us and forgives us
- **Commissioning** – as a follower of Jesus, called to work with him in the world.

There are 4 symbols used in the Baptism service.

- **The sign of the cross** – the sign of God’s love as shown by Jesus on the cross. Jesus calls us to take up our cross and follow him, that means taking seriously the suffering of our world and not turning our back on it, but working to transform the world. So the signing we do this with Holy Oil.
- **Water** – without water there would be no life – it is the essential building block of all life. Water played a significant part in the story of the Jewish people, in the creation story in Genesis, the Spirit of God moved over the waters of the deep and formed dry land; God led the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the promised land, through the waters of the sea; Jesus was commissioned for ministry at his baptism in the River Jordan.
- **Shell** – the shell is an ancient symbol of pilgrimage, a holy journey. In baptism we step out on a journey of growing in knowledge and love of God.
- **Candle** – lights make a difference in dark places, the candle reminds us that in baptism we are commissioned to “shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the father” Lights comfort, guide and direct, and help us to celebrate and remember loved ones.



Your Commitment:

As part of the Baptism service Parents and Godparents will be asked a number of questions. In the early part of the service, there are 3 questions:

- Do you repent of your sins?

This is an acknowledgement that none of us is perfect. We all get things wrong, sometimes in our thoughts, at other times in our speaking and the things we do. This is sometimes as a result of not thinking, at other times weakness and on other occasions by deliberate fault.

The response is “ I repent of my sins” in other words “I’m sorry”

- Do you renounce evil?

This world is not perfect, there is greed, violence, injustice, oppression. but we all want our children to grow up in a good world and in baptism we commit ourselves to working for a better world and standing up against evil.

The response is “I renounce evil”

- Do you turn to Christ?

Jesus Christ gives us a pattern for living, a way to follow.

Christians believe he is always with us, there to turn to and ask for help.

The response is “I turn to Christ”

You will also be asked to commit yourself to praying for your child(ren), and bringing them up in the family of the Church.

As a Church community we too commit ourselves to help you in that task by providing opportunities for Childrens services for instance Messy Church.

Your faith as Parents:

In the baptism service you are asked to state your Christian faith in God

- as Father and Creator;
- as Jesus who came to share in our humanity
- as the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the world.

You will be asked “do you believe and trust in..... and your response is “I believe and trust in him”.

You will need to think about this statement of faith as you choose who will be godparents to your child(ren). Godparents should be baptized and if at all possible practicing Christians, who will be able to help your child(ren) grow in faith and fulfill the promises made in the baptism service.

As Godparents

Normally Parents choose two Godparents of the same sex as your child, and one of the opposite sex.

Parents and Godparents are asked to pray and provide examples to the child(ren) being baptized. They are also asked to care for them so they may take up their place in the Church.

In the service Parents and Godparents make the commitment on behalf of children.