

St Oswald's Methley with Mickletown



Holy Baptism

Service of Holy Baptism

Welcome and Introduction

The Vicar says

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us
that to enter the kingdom of heaven
we must be born again of water and the Spirit,
and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this
new birth.

Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean.
Here we are clothed with Christ,
dying to sin that we may live his risen life.
As children of God, we have a new dignity
and God calls us to fullness of life.

So let us pray:

Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give to your faithful people new life in the water of
baptism.

Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit,
that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love,
and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Bible Reading and Talk

Presentation of the Candidates

*The candidates may be presented to the congregation.
Where appropriate, they may be presented by their
godparents or sponsors.*

Either:

*At the baptism of infants, the Vicar addresses the whole
congregation*

Jesus said,

'Let the children come to me. Do not stop them'.

We thank God for *N and N* who have come to be baptised
today.

Christ loves them and welcomes them into his Church.

So I ask you all:

Will you support these children as they begin their journey
of faith?

All We will.

Will you help them to live and grow within God's family?

All We will.

The Vicar then addresses the parents and godparents

God knows each of us by name and we are his.

Parents and godparents, you speak for *N and N* today.

Will you pray for them,
and help them to follow Christ?

We will.

Or at the baptism of adults:

The Vicar asks those candidates for baptism who are able to answer for themselves

Do you wish to be baptised?

I do.

Testimony by the candidate(s) may follow.

The Vicar addresses the whole congregation

We thank God for N who has come to be baptised today.

Christ loves them and welcomes them into his Church.

Will you support them on their journey of faith?

All We will.

The Decision

The Vicar addresses the candidates directly, or through their parents, godparents and sponsors

We all wander far from God and lose our way:

Christ comes to find us and welcomes us home.

In baptism we respond to his call.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn away from sin?

I do.

Do you reject evil?

I do.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I do.

Do you trust in him as Lord?

I do.

Signing with the Cross

The Vicar or another minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate, saying

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

The Vicar may invite parents, godparents and sponsors to sign the candidates with the cross.

When all the candidates have been signed, the Vicar says

Do not be ashamed of Christ.

You are his for ever.

**All Stand bravely with him
against all the powers of evil,
and remain faithful to Christ to the end
of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

All Amen.

Prayer over the Water

The ministers and candidates gather at the baptismal font.

The Vicar stands before the water of baptism and says:

We praise you, loving Father,

for the gift of your Son Jesus.

He was baptised in the River Jordan,

where your Spirit came down upon him

and revealed him as the Son you love.

He sent his followers

to baptize all who turn to him.

Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water,
that those who are baptised in it
may be cleansed in the water of life,
and, filled with your Spirit,
may know that they are loved as your children,
safe in Christ for ever.

All Amen.

Profession of Faith

The Vicar addresses the congregation

Let us affirm,
together with these who are being baptised,
our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life,
the one for whom we exist?

All I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

All I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

All I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

All This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

Baptism

If the candidate(s) can answer for themselves, the Vicar may say to them:

N, is this your faith?

Each candidate answers in their own words, or says

This is my faith.

*The Vicar or another minister dips each candidate in water,
or pours water on them, saying*

N, I baptise you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

The Vicar says

May God, who has received you by baptism
into his Church,
pour upon you the riches of his grace,
that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people
you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit,
and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

All Amen.

The Welcome

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
N, by one Spirit we are all baptised into one body.

All We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
we are children of the same heavenly Father;
we welcome you.

The congregation may greet or applaud the newly baptised.

The Vicar and those who have been baptised may return from the font.

Prayers

The Vicar or another person leads us in prayers for the newly baptized, their sponsors or godparents, families and friends, and for the Church and the world.

This prayer may be used

Faithful and loving God,
bless those who care for these children
and grant them your gifts of love, wisdom and faith.
Pour upon them your healing and reconciling love,
and protect their homes from all evil.
Fill them with the light of your presence
and establish them in the joy of your kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As your children, born again in Christ, we say:

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.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Giving of a Lighted Candle

The minister or another person may give all the newly baptised a lighted candle.

When all have received a candle, the minister says

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and has given us a place with the saints in light.
You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.

All Shine as a light in the world,
to the glory of God the Father.

The Blessing

The Vicar may use a seasonal blessing, or another suitable blessing, or

The God of all grace,
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

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