

# THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM

IN THE CHURCH  
OF  
ST MARY THE  
VIRGIN AND  
ST NICHOLAS  
LITTLEMORE



Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all

All: **and also with you.**

The priest welcomes everybody and prays the opening prayer, this is followed by a reading and a sermon.

## LITURGY OF BAPTISM

The priest addresses the congregation:

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling. People of God, will you welcome these children and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

All: **With the help of God, we will.**

The priest then says to the parents and godparents:

Parents and godparents, the Church receives these children with joy. Today we are trusting God for their growth in faith. Will you pray for them, draw them by your example into the community of faith and walk with them in the way of Christ?

Parents and Godparents answer: **With the help of God, we will.**

Priest: In baptism these children begin their journey in faith.

You speak for them today. Will you care for them, and help them to take their place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

Parents and Godparents: **With the help of God, we will.**

## DECISION

The priest again addresses the parents and godparents:

In Baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask: Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

Parents and Godparents: **I reject them.**

Priest: Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

Parents and Godparents: **I renounce them.**

Priest: Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

Parents and Godparents: **I repent of them.**

Priest: Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

Parents and Godparents: **I turn to Christ.**

Priest: Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

Parents and Godparents: **I submit to Christ.**

Priest: Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

Parents and Godparents: **I come to Christ.**

## SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

The priest makes the sign of the cross with the Holy Oil of Baptism on the forehead of each candidate saying:

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross. Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**All: Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

Priest: May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, restore in you the image of his glory, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. **Amen.**

The blessing of the water:

Priest: Praise God who made heaven and earth,

**All: who keeps his promise for ever.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Priest blesses the water recalling God's saving power

Priest: Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together the faith of the Church: 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.**

Priest: 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.**

Priest: 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.**

Priest: This is the faith of the Church.

All: **This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

The priest dips each candidate in water, or pours water on them:

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

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. **Amen.**

Prayers and the Lord's Prayer are followed by this welcome:

Priest: 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.**

## GIVING OF A LIGHTED CANDLE

Priest: 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.**

## BLESSING