

Rite of bringing a baptised child to the Church

Reception of the Child

Celebrant: What name have you given your child?

Parents: [Name]

Celebrant: What do you ask of God's Church, now that your child has been baptised?

Parents: **We ask that the whole community will know that he (she) has been received into the Church.**

Celebrant: Do you realise that in bringing your child to the Church, you are accepting the duty of raising him (her) in the faith, so that by observing the commandments he (she) will love God and neighbour as Christ taught us?

Parents: **We do.**

Then the celebrant turns to the godparents and addresses them in these or similar words:

Are you ready to help the mother and father of this child to carry out their duty as Christian parents?

Godparents: **We are.**

The celebrant continues:

[Name], the Christian community welcomes you with great joy. We now bear witness that you have been received as a member of the Church. In the name of the community I sign you with the cross of Christ, who gave you a new life in baptism and made you a member of his Church. I 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

Scriptural Readings and Homily

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

6:3–5

Baptism: a sharing in Christ's death and resurrection.

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.

The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 26:1. 4. 8-9. 13-14

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The Lord is my light and my help;
whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
before whom shall I shrink? R.

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
for this I long,
to live in the house of the Lord,
all the days of my life,
to savour the sweetness of the Lord,
to behold his temple. R.

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face.
Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help. R.

I am sure I shall see the Lord's goodness
in the land of the living.
Hope in him, hold firm and take heart.
Hope in the Lord! R.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

John 3:16

God loved the world so much, he gave us his only
Son, that all who believe in him might have eternal life.

Alleluia!

The meeting with Nicodemus.

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?’ 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Chris**

or

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

28:18–20

The apostles are sent to preach the gospel and to baptise.

Jesus came up and spoke to them. 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.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Prayer of the Faithful

Celebrant: Let us ask our Lord Jesus Christ to look lovingly on this child, on his (her) parents and godparents, and on all the baptised.

Leader: May this child always show gratitude to God for his (her) baptism.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Help him (her) always to be a living member of your Church.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Inspire him (her) to hear, follow, and witness to your gospel.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: May he (she) come with joy to the table of your sacrifice.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Help him (her) to love God and neighbour as you have taught us.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: May he (she) grow in holiness and wisdom by listening to his (her) fellow Christians and following their example.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Keep all your followers united in faith and love for ever.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

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.
Saint [Name]	pray for us.

The names of other saints may be added, especially the patrons of the children to be baptised, and of the church or locality. The litany concludes:

All holy men and women pray for us.

Then the celebrant says:

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
source of all life and love,
you are glorified by the loving care these parents have shown this child.
You rescue children from danger and save them in baptism.
Your Church thanks you and prays for your child [Name]
You have brought him (her) out of the kingdom of darkness
and into your marvellous light.
You have made him (her) your adopted child
and a temple of the Holy Spirit.
Help him (her) in all the dangers of this life
and strengthen him (her) in the constant effort to reach your kingdom,
through the power of Christ our Saviour.
(We ask this) through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Renunciation of Sin and Profession of Faith

The celebrant speaks to the parents and godparents in these words:

Dear parents and godparents:

You have come here to present these children for baptism. By water and the Holy Spirit they are to receive the gift of new life from God, who is love.

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

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 these children are about to be baptised.

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.

The celebrant and the congregation give their assent to the profession of faith:

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.

FURTHER RITES

Anointing with Chrism

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 chrism, in silence.

Clothing with White Garment

[Name], 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.

Lighted Candle

The celebrant takes the Easter candle and says:

Receive the light of Christ

Someone, 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.

A baptismal song is appropriate at this time, such as:

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

Conclusion of the Rite

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:

My dear brothers and sisters, 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.

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.**

Blessing

The celebrant first blesses the mother, who holds the child in her arms, then the father, and lastly the entire assembly:

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 her son (daughter) in thanking God for ever in heaven, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

R. 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 also be the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

R. 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 on 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.

R. Amen.

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

R. Amen.