

Baptised in God's name

FOCUS

1. At Baptism, we are welcomed into God's family, the Church.
2. When we are baptised, we are given God's life.
3. Baptism has many rituals and symbols.

Jesus told his friends to baptise people in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. In Baptism we use water, because Jesus told us that we must be born again of water and the Holy Spirit. We use the Easter candle. Jesus said, "I am the Light of the World." We use perfumed oil – oil that kings, queens, priests and prophets were anointed with to strengthen them for their special work.

The parents and Godparents bring the baby to the church. The priest welcomes them; he reads the Word of God, and brings them to the holy water font. There, the priest pours water three times over the baby's head and says, "I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen." Then he takes some oil, makes a cross on the baby's head, and says, "God our Father anoints you with the oil of chrism. May you live always as a member of his Body." The baby receives a white garment, and the priest says to the child, "You are clothed in Christ. See in this white garment the sign of your Christian dignity." Finally, the priest lights a candle from the flame of the Easter candle. He gives this candle to the parents and godparents, and asks them to help the child "to live always as a child of the light."

When we are born, we become part of a family. When we are baptised, we join the Church, which is God's family.

People had brought little children to Jesus. The disciples saw this and began to turn the people away. However, when Jesus saw this he was unhappy with his disciples. He turned around and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for the Kingdom of God belongs to them." Then he put his arms around them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

Jesus wishes to welcome all children into his family.

SUGGESTED HOME ACTIVITIES

These are some suggested activities to do at home with your child.

1. Read and discuss the two passages with your child. Ask him or her 'I wonder' questions eg. I wonder ... why some people are baptised when they are older.
I wonder ... why we have Godparents.
2. Using a doll, dramatise a Baptism ceremony. The passage can serve as a script for this.
3. Start a 'memories book' with your child. This book could include photos from key moments in his or her life, including birth, Baptism, first day at school, etc. Make sure that this book stays in use.
4. Take your child to the Easter Saturday Vigil Mass, where, traditionally, new members are baptised, confirmed and received into the Catholic Church.
5. More activities can be found at www.ccdsydney.catholic.edu.au
Click on Home Activities.



To Remember:

God knows me by name.
I belong to God's family.

At Baptism, we see many things. Use the pictures and complete the sentences to solve the puzzle on Baptism.



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At Baptism, the priest puts o__ on the baby's head.

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At Baptism, each baby is given a n ____

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At Baptism we are w _____ into God's family.



Dear God,
 Thank you for making me special.
 Thank you for making me as me.
 Thank you for making me welcome into your big family. Amen.