

Priest: Is it your wish that I baptise N.?
All: **It is**

Our Lady and St Peter, Aldeburgh and All Saints', Leiston

THE RITE OF BAPTISM AT MASS

Baptism

The mother holds the child over the font and the priest/deacon baptises with the pouring of or immersion in water, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Anointing with Chrism

After a prayer recalling that Jesus is the Christ (which means 'The Anointed One'), the priest/deacon anoints the head of the newly-baptised child with chrism.

Clothing in White

The godmother wraps the shawl around the child as the priest/deacon prays that he/she may be clothed in Christ.

Gift of Light

One of the family is asked to take a light from the Paschal (Easter) candle. The newly-lit candle is given to the father (or another member of the family) to hold. It is a symbol of the responsibility which parents and godparents have to share their faith with the child who is baptised.

Mass continues with the Preparation of the Gifts

Introductory Rites: *After the opening hymn, sign of the Cross and Greeting, the priest says*

N, and N, welcome!

With family and friends you gather with us today, bringing your child to join all Christian people at our common wellspring, the font of baptism. Since his/her birth you have bathed him/her with water that cleanses, refreshes and soothes. Now you bring him/her to the refreshing waters of rebirth, from which he/she will emerge a new creation in Christ, our brother/sister in the great family of God.

We welcome his/her presence among us and ask you to tell us his/her name.

Why do you want N. to be baptised?

Parents: **We want him/her to be part of the Church** (or similar answer, such as) **We want her to be a member of God's family.**

Priest: In seeking baptism for N. you are pledging your own Christian faith and your commitment to his Church. You are promising to share this faith with N. in all that lies ahead. Only by love of God and love of neighbour can Christian faith be known. Love of God is expressed in prayer, in worship with the community of the Church, and in readiness to do God's will under the guidance of the gospel. Love of neighbour is shown in care for others, especially for those in need, and in striving for the peace and justice of Christ. Are you ready to help N. grow in love of God and neighbour?

Parents: **Yes, I am**

If one of the parents is not a Catholic, the priest/deacon may add:

N., we welcome your presence here today, and value the support and encouragement you give to N., as he/she (or together you) seek(s) to lead your child to know and love the Lord.

Priest: Have you chosen people you trust to share the responsibility of leading N. in the ways of faith?

Parents: **We have**

Priest: *addressing the godparents:*
Will you support N's parents in leading him/her in the ways of faith?

Godparents: **We are ready and willing, with the grace of God and the help of the Church.**

Priest: People of God, gathered here, are you willing to nurture the faith of this child and support his/her parents and godparents?

All: **We are**

Priest: N., the Christian community welcomes you with great joy. In its name I claim you for Christ our Saviour by the sign of his cross. I now trace the cross on your forehead, and invite your parents and godparents to do the same

Mass continues with the Gloria (if said/sung), and the Opening Prayer.

Liturgy of the Word:

General Intercessions:

The priest/deacon invites us to pray for the child, family and friends, the Church and the world. If possible, these prayers should be written and read by members of the baptismal party – e.g. parents, godparents, grandparents, brothers and sisters. At the end of each petition, the following is said:

All: Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

The priest/deacon asks for the prayers of the saints, including the child's own patron(s)

Holy Mary, Mother of God	Pray for us
St Joseph	Pray for us
St Michael	Pray for us
St John the Baptist	Pray for us
St Peter and St Paul	Pray for us
St N. (patron saint)	Pray for us

Liturgy of Baptism:

Pre-Baptismal Anointing

The child is anointed on the chest. The prayer asks that he/she may be kept free from evil and strengthened by Christ

Blessing of the Baptismal Water

Unless the baptism takes place during the Easter season, the water is blessed.

Renunciation of Sin

Because the child is too young to make a personal declaration, the Church relies on the faith of parents and godparents and all who are present. After some words of introduction, the priest/deacon says:

Priest: Do you renounce evil, with all its false attractions and seductive promises?

All: **With God's help, I do**

Priest: Do you reject greed and envy, selfishness and injustice, and all the deceits that come from the Evil One?

All: **With God's help, I do**

Priest: Do you resolve to put aside the works of darkness and live as children of light?

All: **With God's help, I do**

Profession of Faith

Priest: Do you believe in God the Father?

All: **I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth**

Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ his Son?

All: **I 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**
Priest: Do you believe in God, the Holy Spirit?
All: **I 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.**

Priest: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it in Christ Jesus, our Lord

All: **Amen**

her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering
and who it is that is saying to you:
"Give me a drink",
you would have been the one to ask,
and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered, 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied:

'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again;
but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give
will never be thirsty again:
the water that I shall give
will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

The gospel of the Lord.

Readings for Baptism

*Please choose one of the readings suggested (or another of your own choice).
It would be good if a member of your family or a friend could do the reading
on the day.*

New Testament Readings

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans: 6:3-5

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

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans: 8:28-32

We know that by turning everything to their good God co-operates with all those who love him, with all those he has called according to his purpose. They are the ones he chose specially long ago and intended to become true images of his Son, so that his Son might be the eldest of many brothers. He called those he intended for this; those he called he justified, and with those he justified, he shared his glory.

After saying this, what can we add? With God on our side, who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians: 12:12-13

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit, we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given us all to drink.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Galatians: 3:26-28

You are, all of you, sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. All baptised in Christ, you have all clothed yourself in Christ, and there are no more distinctions, between Jew and Greek, slave and free, male and female, but all of you are one in Christ Jesus.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Ephesians: 4:1-6

I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to lead a life worthy of your vocation. Bear with one another charitably, in complete selflessness, gentleness and patience. Do all you can to preserve the unity of the Spirit by the peace that binds you together. There is one body, one Spirit, just as you were all called into one and the same hope when you were called. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and one God who is Father of all, over all, through all and within all.

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the first letter of St Peter: 2:4-5, 9-10

Jesus Christ is the living stone, rejected by others but chosen by God and precious to him; set yourselves close to him so that you too, the holy priesthood that offers the spiritual sacrifices which he has made acceptable to God, may be living stones making a spiritual house.

You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people set apart to sing the praises of God who called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people at all and now you are the People of God; once you were outside the mercy and now you have been given mercy.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Readings

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew: 22:35-40

To disconcert Jesus, one of the Pharisees, a lawyer, put a question, 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the law?' Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it. You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

The gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew: 28:18-20

Jesus came up and spoke to his disciples. He said, 'All authority in heaven and 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.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark: 1:9-11

Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved, my favour rests on you.'

The Gospel of the Lord

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark: 10:13-16

People were bringing little children to Jesus, for him to bless them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.' Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them a blessing.

The gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark: 12:28-34

One of the scribes came up and put a question to Jesus, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: you must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master, what you have said is true; that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared question him any more.

The gospel of the Lord.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John: 3:1-6

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.

A reading from the holy gospel according to John: 4:5-14

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. 'When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to