



# Ancient Catholic Church

## RITE OF BAPTISM FOR CHILDREN ROMAN PONTIFICAL

**The Administration of Baptism  
According to the Roman Pontifical**

**Authorised for use in publish  
in the Ancient Catholic Church**

*The community gathers in a circle. Standing in the centre of the circle of life is the pillar of light (Easter candle), a stone, an unlit candle, a jug of water and the font.*

## Welcome

*When the family has gathered, the minister says:*

**Priest:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**All:** Amen.

## Greeting

**Priest:** The grace and peace of God our Father and his Son Jesus Christ, who showed his love for children, be with you all.

*All make the following or some other suitable reply.*

**All:** Blessed be God for ever.

*The minister greets the child and all present in the following words.*

**Priest:** As we gather together, let us praise and thank the Lord, who took little children into his arms and blessed them. Praised be the Lord now and for ever.

**All:** Praised be the Lord now and for ever.

*In the following or similar words, the minister prepares those present for the blessing.*

**Priest:** When he came into the world, our Lord, the Son of God, became a child and grew in wisdom, age, and grace in the eyes of God and of all who knew him. Jesus welcomed children, believed in their dignity, and held them up as a model for all who are seeking the kingdom of God.

But children do need the help of grown-ups if they are to develop their individual gifts, and their moral, mental, and physical powers, and so reach human and Christian maturity.

Let us therefore ask for God's blessing, so that we will all devote ourselves to the Christian upbringing of N and so that they will both accept willingly the guidance they need.

# Introduction to the Baptism

*The minister introduces the service.*

**Priest:** At Jesus' baptism in the river Jordan,  
God showed himself to all who have eyes to see and ears to hear.  
The Father spoke from heaven, the Spirit descended as a dove  
and Jesus was anointed with power from on high.

Baptism is the door of faith,  
through which we enter the kingdom of heaven.  
As children of God, we are adopted as his sons and daughters,  
and called out to proclaim the wonders of him  
who called us out of darkness and into his marvellous light.

## Opening Prayer

**Priest:** Creator God, in you all life begins; your Spirit moved over the waters  
at the dawn of creation, and you brought us to birth.

Grant that as the waters of baptism break over N, they may be born  
into a spiritual life with Christ and grow in faith and love by the grace  
of your Holy Spirit. Guide us 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.

**All:** Amen.

## Presentation of the Candidate for Baptism

*The minister addresses parents of the candidates first.*

**Priest:** N and N, putting your whole trust in the grace and love of Jesus  
Christ, do you desire to offer N to be baptised today?

**Parents:** We do.

*The minister addresses the whole community gathered.*

**Priest:** Faith is the gift of God to his people.  
In baptism the Lord is adding to our number  
those whom he is calling.

Family and friends, will you welcome  
N, and uphold them in their  
new life in Christ?

**All:** We will.

**Priest:** You have asked to have your children baptised. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training them in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring them up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

**Parents:** We do.

**Priest:** Family and friends, are you ready to help N and N in their duty as Christian parents?

**Parents:** We are.

## **Anointing: Community Blessing**

*The Celebrant anoints the children with the following words:*

**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 as a seal upon your soul and a seal upon your heart.

*The Celebrant continues:*

I now invite N's family and friends to trace the sign of the cross on their forehead as a sign of the love that exists for these children within this community. As you do so, please say the words 'peace and joy'.

*The community are invited to step forward and do likewise.*

**All:** Peace and joy.

**Music: Veni Sancte Spiritus**

# Profession of Faith

*The minister turns and speaks directly to the parents.*

**Priest:** In baptism, we are called out of darkness and into God's wonderful light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Do you turn to Christ?

**Parents:** I turn to Christ.

**Priest:** Do you repent of your sins?

**Parents:** I repent of my sins.

**Priest:** Do you renounce evil?

**Parents:** I renounce evil.

## Readings

### The Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 28, Verses 18-20

*Read by Priest:*

18 Then Jesus came to them. He said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And you can be sure that I am always with you, to the very end."

## Homily

Jesus began his ministry when John the Baptist baptised him in the River Jordan and ended his ministry with a command to the Twelve Disciples to go out into the world and baptise all nations. Baptism bookends his life among us. Baptism is the gateway to a closer relationship with God, it is the gateway to the Holy Spirit.

And now I'd like to speak to N's parents: To baptise N today is an act of faith. Through baptism we give them a treasure; in baptism we give them a promise:

The Holy Spirit. They will leave today with the strength of the Holy Spirit within them, the Spirit which will defend them, help them, and nurture them throughout their whole lives.

You have brought your children today to receive the Sacrament of Baptism. This is the first step in the task you have to fulfil as parents: the task of transmitting the Faith.

We need the Holy Spirit to transmit the Faith; we cannot do it alone.

Transmitting the Faith is a grace that comes from the Holy Spirit, and this is why you have brought N here to receive the Holy Spirit, to receive the Trinity—the Father, Son and Holy Spirit—who will dwell in their hearts.

There is just one thing I want to tell you, something that regards you: the transmission of the Faith can only be done in the “dialect,” in the “language” of the family, the “dialect” or “language” used by the father and mother, the grandfather and grandmother. Others will come later, teachers of the faith, who will develop this first transmission of the Faith, with ideas and explanations.

But do not forget this: if the “language of the family” is missing, if at home you do not speak the language of love between parents, the transmission of the Faith is not so easy; it cannot be done. Do not forget this. Your task is to transmit the Faith, but you must do it with the language of love, the language of your home, the language of family.

Children too have their own language, and it is good for us to hear it! Jesus asks us to be like them, to speak like them. We must not forget this language of children. They speak as best they can, but it’s a language that is very pleasing to Jesus. In your prayers, be simple like they are: tell Jesus what is in your heart, like they do. The language of parents must be the love with which they transmit the Faith, and the language of children must be welcomed by their parents, so they can grow in Faith.

## **Bidding Prayers**

**Priest:** Family and friends, let us ask our Lord Jesus Christ to look lovingly on these children who are to be baptised, on their parents, N and N and

on all the baptised. By the mystery of your death and resurrection, bathe these children in light. Give them the new life of baptism and welcome them into your holy Church.

Lord, hear us.

**All:** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Priest:** Through baptism, make N your faithful followers and witnesses to your gospel. Lord, hear us:

**All:** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Priest:** Lead them by a holy life to the joys of God's kingdom. Lord, hear us:

**All:** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Priest:** Make the lives of their parents, N and N, examples of faith to inspire these children. Lord, hear us:

**All:** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Priest:** Keep their family always in your love. Lord, hear us:

**All:** Lord, graciously hear us.

**Priest:** Renew the grace of our baptism in each one of us.

**All:** Lord, graciously hear us.

*The Priest next invites all present to invoke the saints:*

**Priest:** Holy Mary, Mother of God.

**All:** Pray for us.

**Priest:** Saint John the Baptist.

**All:** Pray for us.

**Priest:** Saint Joseph.

**All:** Pray for us.

**Priest:** Saint Peter and Saint Paul.

**All:** Pray for us.

**Priest:** All holy men and women.

**All:** Pray for us.

*With hands outstretched to the candidates, the celebrant says:*

**Priest:** Almighty and ever-living God, you sent your only Son into the world to cast out the power of Satan, spirit of evil, to rescue man from the kingdom of darkness, and bring him into the splendour of your kingdom of light. We pray for these children: set them free from original sin, make them a temple of your glory, and send your Holy Spirit to dwell upon them, all the days of their lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

*The celebrant continues, anointing each child with the oil of Catechumen:*

## **Anointing of the Oil of Catechumen**

**Priest:** I anoint you with the oil of salvation in the name of Christ our Saviour; may he strengthen you with his power, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**All:** Amen.

*He anoints each child on the forehead with the oil of catechumens.*

*And immediately he lays his hand on the child in silence, in prayer. Then they go to the font, where baptism is celebrated.*

## **Blessing Baptismal Water**

*The celebrant blesses the water with the sign of the cross, once at each verse:*

**Priest:** Jesus, glorious brightness, flame of love:

Jesus, filling hearts and minds with life:

✙ Hear our prayer, have mercy;

hear our prayer, have mercy;

give us your peace.



**Jesus, healing strength, redeeming power:**

**Jesus, burning out the mark of sin:**

**Jesus, by whose truth we are inspired:**

**Jesus, present here among us now:**

Dear family and friends, God uses the sacrament of water to give his divine life to those who believe in him. Let us turn to Him and ask Him to pour His gift of life from this font on to N, whom he has chosen.

*Then, turning to the font, he says the following blessing:*

Father, you give us grace through sacramental signs, which tell us of the wonders of your unseen power. In baptism we use your gift of water, which you have made a rich symbol of the grace you give us in this sacrament. At the very dawn of creation your Spirit breathed on the waters, making them the wellspring of all holiness. The waters of the great flood you made a sign of the waters of baptism, that make an end of sin and a new beginning of goodness.

Through the waters of the Red Sea you led Israel out of slavery, to be an image of God's holy people, set free from sin by baptism. In the waters of the Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit. Your Son willed that water and blood should flow from his side as he hung upon the cross.

After his resurrection he told his disciples: "*Go out and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*" Father, look now with love upon your Church, and unseal for her the fountain of baptism. By the power of the Spirit give to the water of this font the grace of your Son. You created man in your own likeness: cleanse him from sin in a new birth to innocence by water and the Spirit.

*The celebrant touches the water with his right hand and continues:*

We ask you, Father, with your Son to send the Holy Spirit upon the water of this font. May all who are buried with Christ in the death of

baptism rise also with him to newness of life. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**All:**           **Amen.**

## **Parents & Godparent Promises**

**Priest:**       N and N, you have come here to present your children for baptism.

By water and the Holy Spirit, you bring N 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 heart.

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 N are about to be baptised.

*The celebrant questions the parents and godparents together:*

**Priest:**       Do you reject sin, so as to live in the freedom of God's children?

**Parents: & Godparents:**    I do.

**Priest:**       Do you reject the glamor of evil, and refuse to be mastered by sin?

**Parents: & Godparents:**    I do.

**Priest:**       Do you reject Satan, father of sin and prince of darkness?

**Parents: & Godparents:**    I do.

*Next the celebrant asks for the threefold profession of faith from the parents and godparents:*

**Priest:**       Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

**Parents: & Godparents:**    I do.

**Priest:** 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: & Godparents:** I do.

**Priest:** 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: & Godparents:** I do.

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

**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.

## The Baptism

*The celebrant invites the family to the font and questions the parents and godparents:*

**Priest:** Is it your will that N should be baptised in the faith of the Church, which we have all professed with you?

**Parents:** It is.

*He baptises each child, saying:*

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

## Anointing with Holy Oil of Chrism

*Then the celebrant says:*

**Priest:** 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 sacred chrism, in silence.*

## Sharing of the Signing of the Cross

*Everyone is welcome to share in the waters of N's baptism.*

**Priest:** Receive the sign of the cross, in peace and joy.

*Once everyone who wishes to be marked with the cross, the following words are said:*

**Priest:** May the sign of the cross you have received today remind you that you stood in the presence of Jesus Christ this day as you accompanied N in their new life in Christ.

**All:** Amen.

## Lighted Candle

*The celebrant takes the Easter candle and says: Receive the light of Christ.*

**Priest:** N and N, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. N have been enlightened by Christ. They are to walk always as a child of the light. May they keep the flame of faith alive in their heart. When the Lord comes, may they go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.

## Giving the Baptismal Shell

*This is optional, and only if a scallop shell is used during the baptism. The minister presents N with the baptism shell.*

**Priest:** N and N, I present to you this scallop shell, the vessel which held the waters of N baptism. May it serve as a reminder, in years to come, of their new life in Christ that has begun this day. Along with the stone and candle, may they remind them of the love of God the Creator, the light of Christ present in the Eternal Flame and the power of the Holy Spirit.

## Lord's Prayer

*Parents and children return to their seats. The lighted candle is carried for the child. The celebrant returns to the altar and says,*

**Priest:** You have put on Christ; in him you have been baptised. Alleluia, alleluia.

*The celebrant stands in front of the altar and addresses the parents, and the whole assembly in these words:*

**Priest:** Dearly beloved, these children has been reborn in baptism. They are now called a child of God, for so indeed they are. In confirmation they will receive the fullness of God's Spirit. In holy communion they will share the banquet of Christ's sacrifice, calling God their Father in the midst of the Church. In the name of these children, 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 saying:*

**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.

**Priest:** Deliver us, Lord, from every evil  
and grant us peace in our day.  
Free us from all our sins  
and bring us into everlasting life  
through Christ our Lord,

*With hands extended, the Priest alone continues, saying:*

**Priest:** Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,  
graciously grant peace in our days,  
that, by the help of your mercy,

we may be always free from sin  
and safe from all distress,  
as we await the blessed hope  
and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*He joins his hands.*

*The people conclude the prayers, acclaiming:*

**All:** For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
  
Amen.

## Blessing

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

**Priest:** 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 N. She now thanks God for the gift of her children. May she be one with them, thanking Him for ever in heaven, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** God is the giver of all life, human and divine. May he bless the father of N. He and his wife will be the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith. May they be also the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**All:** Amen.

**Priest:** 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 upon 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.

**All:** Amen.

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

**All:** Amen