

## PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

Parents who bring children to be baptised promise to bring them up as Christians. Parents may have a growing faith without yet being regular church attenders. We welcome all who sincerely desire to follow Jesus Christ and who want to include their children in that desire.

At St Nicolas' we provide opportunities for learning about the Christian faith. The baptism may prompt various questions in your mind. Please don't feel awkward about asking.

We can help you to bring your child up as a Christian, with a programme of activities and events through the year.

The godparents of a child to be baptised have an important supportive rôle too. We ask you to think carefully about the promises you will make at the beginning of the service.

## WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE BAPTISM!



Notes for Parents & Godparents



# WELCOME

Baptisms at St Nicolas' are always celebrated in the main service at 10am on Sunday mornings. As a baptised Christian you have many sisters and brothers. The Church, all the Churches together, is one big Family of God. St Nicolas' church is the local group of that family.

The words for the Baptism are enclosed. Please do have a look through and be prepared to say them.

We try to be quiet before the service begins. The glassed-in 'narthex' at the back of church is sound proof, but you can still hear the service, so do take your children out for a break if getting frazzled! There are also some colouring sheets etc for children with things to do in church during the service.

The toilets are in the hall and can be accessible when needed.

*You are welcome to take photographs and videos afterwards, but not, please, during the service.*

## 'CHRISTENING'

Baptism is the way to become a Christian so we often call it a Christ-ening. A Christian is someone who tries to follow Jesus Christ and to live in the way he taught – but not just privately. The life of the Church is not something Christians may or may not opt in to. You are the Church!

In baptism the one being baptised makes a public declaration of faith. In the case of an infant the parents and godparents do so on his or her behalf.

The local church community welcomes her new members with great joy!

## PARISH MASS

'Mass' is an old English name for the Eucharist – which comes from what Jesus did at the Last Supper. 'Mass' comes from the Latin 'missa' ('sent out') which is said when the people go at the end of the Eucharist. It reminds us that we are *sent out* from church to be signs of hope in the *world*. This Catholic name also reminds us that Christianity is 'universal', that's what 'Catholic' means, so including all the different Churches.

Another name for the service is Holy Communion. This reminds us that Jesus is truly with us in the bread and wine. To be a full member of his church baptism has to be followed by confirmation and First Holy Communion.

## THE BAPTISM

Here are the words of the baptism which come mostly in the middle of the Parish Mass, just after the homily, or address.

### ***The Liturgy of Baptism***

#### *Presentation of the Candidates*

*The priest addresses the whole 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 *N*

and uphold him/her in his/her 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 this child with joy.

Today we are trusting God for his/her growth in faith. Will you pray for him/her, draw him/her by your example into the community of faith and walk with him/her in the way of Christ?

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

In baptism this child begins his/her journey in faith. You speak for him/her today. Will you care for him/her, and help him/her to take his/her place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

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

#### *The Decision*

*Those who are with N move to the font*

*The paschal candle is lit. The priest addresses N through the parents, godparents and sponsors*

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?

**I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

**I renounce them.**

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

**I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

**I submit to Christ.**

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

**I come to Christ.**

#### *Signing with the Cross and Anointing*

*The priest makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of N, saying*

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

*When he/she has been signed and anointed, the priest says*

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.**

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.

*All* **Amen.**

*The priest stands before the water of baptism and says*

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*(the priest says a prayer)*

All **Amen.**

*Profession of Faith*

*The priest addresses the congregation*

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

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

All **I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in 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 the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Baptism*

*The priest dips N in water, or pours water on him/her, saying*

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

*As we look forward to N's confirmation, the priest says (with the anointing by the oil of Chrism if a child)*

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.

All **Amen.**

*The priest and the newly baptised return from the font to their seats.*

*The priest invites all to pray for the newly baptised and for the needs of the world.*

**The Welcome and Peace**

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.**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*All* **And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a handshake as a sign of peace.*

*These words come at the end of the service when those baptised are given a lighted candle:*

## **The Dismissal**

*The priest gives N a lighted candle, saying:*

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.**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

*All* Thanks be to God.