

# Celebrating the Sacrament of **Baptism**

Baptism is a time of celebration. It is something for you and your family, but it is also a special time for all the other members of the Church because the Church welcomes new members.

When your child is baptised you embark with them on a life-long journey of intimacy with Jesus. There will be special times on that journey and we, the parish, will walk the path with you.

What do you know about your own baptism?

Who was there?

Who are your godparents?

If you don't know now would be a good time to ask someone - see if your family has your baptism candle, or photos of your baptism.



## **Read part of the story of Jesus' baptism from St Mark's Gospel:**

Not long afterwards, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the River Jordan. As he was coming up out of the water the Spirit came down upon him and a voice from heaven said, "You are my child, whom I love".



## Being a parent

What has changed most since you became a parent?

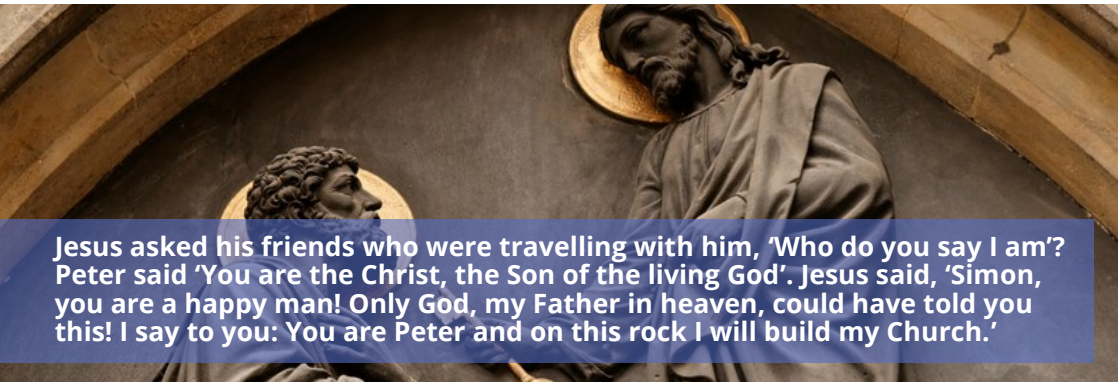
Is it as you expected?

What would help you most?

## Called by name

Names are important. We know people by their names. Parents choose the names of their children with great care and thought. Families often repeat the same names. Why do they do that?

How did you choose the name of the child who has been baptised?



**Jesus asked his friends who were travelling with him, 'Who do you say I am?' Peter said 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God'. Jesus said, 'Simon, you are a happy man! Only God, my Father in heaven, could have told you this! I say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church.'**

In the Bible God chooses people for special jobs. When God has a special job for someone he sometimes gives them a new name. Abram became Abraham, Sarai became Sarah, Saul became Paul.

Jesus called Simon and his brother Andrew to be his followers. Simon recognised how important Jesus was and he was given a special job to do. Jesus gave him a new name to go with his new job. He became Peter, which means rock.

Can you find out the meaning of your name?

Can you find out the meaning of the name of your child?

## The name Jesus means Saviour!

## This is what I promised



To bring my child up in the practice of the faith.

To make sure that God's life grows within them.

To keep them safe from anything that is harmful.

To be the first educator in the ways of faith for my child.

To do this on your own is hard but Jesus does not expect you to do this on your own, you have the gift of the Church to help you.

Will you be able to keep these promises?

Why do people come to Church?

How can you arrange things so that you can take your child/children to Church?

How important is a place in a Catholic school for you and your child?

## Baptism is a Sacrament

The Seven Sacraments are special signs and celebrations that Jesus gave his Church. They allow us to share in God's life and work.

Baptism makes a person a member of the Church, taking away original sin.

Baptism, Eucharist, and Confirmation are the Sacraments of Initiation, which celebrate our belonging and membership into the Catholic Church.

Can you name the other Sacraments? There are two for healing and two about the way we live our lives (answers overleaf).



## Godparents

You have chosen godparents for your child. They take on a special role:



To set a good Catholic example for your child.

To encourage your child in their faith journey.

It is not an honorary title. Godparents serve a special role. Their role is an important one throughout your child's life.

What do you want your child's godparents to do to encourage them as they grow up as a member of the Catholic Church?

## How can you keep special the date of your child's baptism?

Pope Francis has often encouraged us to celebrate the date of our baptisms.

He said it should be like a second birthday: "it is our re-birth"!

Mark the date of your child's baptism in your phone, on your calendar, and try to remember this date with a celebration.



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

### Answers

Sacraments of Healing: Confession (Reconciliation) and Anointing of the Sick.

Sacraments of Life: Marriage and Ordination (someone becomes a priest or a deacon).

