



# **A Service of Baptism for Infants and Children**

St Mark's Darling Point



## A Service of Baptism

*Text in bold is said by everyone, except where the sponsors are addressed.*

Baptism is the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ. It signifies the cleansing from sin that Jesus' death makes possible and the new life that God gives us through the Holy Spirit. In baptism, the promises God makes to his people are visibly acted out for us. We are washed, we die, we rise to new life. We are joined to Christ, and made members of his body, the Church universal.

So let us pray to God the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ that he will grant NN what he/she cannot have by nature, that NN may be born again by the Holy Spirit and be made a living member of Christ's Church.

**Heavenly Father, we thank you that in your great love you have called us to know you and to trust you. Increase this knowledge and strengthen our faith. Grant that NN may be born again by the Holy Spirit, cleansed from all sin, and inherit your eternal kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### THE PRESENTATION

God promises forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit to all who turn to him in Christ. Children must themselves express faith in Christ when they are able to do so. They must turn away from sin and put their trust in him. In due course, they should come to reaffirm these promises and receive prayer for strengthening in confirmation. Those of you who already trust in Christ, and are willing to teach and encourage NN in the same faith, are invited to make the baptismal promises on his/her behalf. Therefore, I ask you,

Will you accept the responsibilities placed upon you in bringing NN for baptism?

**I will**

Are you willing to answer on NN's behalf?

**I am**

By your own prayers and example, by your friendship and love, will you encourage NN in the life and faith of the Christian community?

**I will, with God's help.**

Before God and this congregation, you must affirm that you turn to Christ and reject all that is evil.

Do you turn to Christ?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins?

**I repent of my sins.**

Do you reject selfish living, and all that is false and unjust?

**I reject them all.**

Do you renounce Satan and all evil?

**I renounce all that is evil.**

Will you each, by God's grace, strive to live as a disciple of Christ, loving God with your whole heart, and your neighbour as yourself, until your life's end?

**I will, with God's help.**

*The minister addresses the congregation*

You have heard your family and friends respond to Christ. Will you support them in this calling?

**We will.**

To the sponsors

I now ask you to affirm as yours the faith of the Church.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in God the Son?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;  
from there he will come to judge  
the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

This is the faith of the Church

**This is our faith:**

**We believe in one God –  
the Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

*The minister and each family in turn moves down to the font.*

Let us pray

Merciful God, for Jesus Christ's sake, grant that *these children*, whom we baptise in this water, may be saved through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. May *they* die to sin and rise again to righteousness. May your Spirit live and work in *them*, and may *they* be yours forever, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who died and rose again for us. Amen.

NN, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

I sign you with the sign of the cross to show that it is to the Crucified Christ that you are to be faithful forever.

Live as a disciple of Christ: fight the good fight, finish the race, keep the faith.

**Confess Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection,  
look for his coming in glory.**

God has brought you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

**Shine as a light in the world to the glory  
of God the Father.**

God has called you into his Church.

**We therefore receive and welcome you as a member of  
the body of Christ, as a child of the one heavenly Father,  
and as an inheritor of God's kingdom.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

*All return to the front of church.*

Heavenly Father, we pray for NN's parents and godparents. Give them the spirit of wisdom and love. Enable them to share with NN what you have revealed to us in Jesus Christ. May NN grow up to love and reverence you, and his/her home share in the joy of your eternal kingdom. **Amen**

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **THE BLESSING**

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the faint hearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; give honour to all; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit;

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with us all evermore. Amen.**



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