

Session 2: Baptism

‘Welcome to the family of God ...’



**What is
Baptism?**

A Sacrament

One of the seven Sacraments

An invitation

To join God's family

A sign of belonging

To the Christian Faith

Usually we are Baptised when we are babies.



**What are the
symbols of Baptism?**

**And what do they
represent?**

When we are baptised we receive the **sign of the cross** on our foreheads. The Cross is an important symbol in the Christian faith.



The Priest will trace the sign of the cross on our foreheads then ask our parents and godparents to do the same.

Water is the central symbol of baptism. Water is essential to all life, the water of baptism symbolises the **life-giving grace** that **sustains** those who have become children of God. The waters of baptism 'wash' away sin.



Font



Holy water is poured over the child's head three times. The priest says the child's name and then: "**I baptise you in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.**"

Oil is used twice in the ceremony.

Before the baptism, the child's chest is anointed with the oil of **Catechumens** as a sign of **healing and strengthening**. People need strength to fight for what is right.

Afterwards the crown of the head is anointed with perfumed oil of **Chrism** as a symbol of **joy and thanksgiving**.



In the time of Jesus anointing with oil was a sign of God's love and blessing.

Oil was also placed on the heads of prophets, priests and kings to show that they were set apart by God to do his work.

In baptism we are anointed to bring the good news to others by the way that we live our lives. We are anointed priest, prophet and king just as Christ was.

The **white garment** with which the newly baptised is then clothed symbolises their new life in Christ and is "the outward sign of Christian dignity".

White stands for **purity and innocence** and the rejection of sin (doing wrong things).



**Pascal
Candle**

A **baptismal candle** is lit from the **Paschal Candle** beside the font and presented to the new member as a sign of the **light of Christ**. Light is also **essential for life**. The candle is a sign of hope that the child will always try to live the way that **Jesus would want**.

The sign of the cross
traced on the baby's
forehead



Candle



**White
garment**



Water



**Two
special oils**