

# Baptised into the Church

## Praying together

### Come Holy Spirit

Today we ask the Holy Spirit to renew the grace of Baptism in us. We remember that we are called as members of a Royal, Priestly and Prophetic people and give thanks for being so treasured by almighty God.

### Listening to the Word

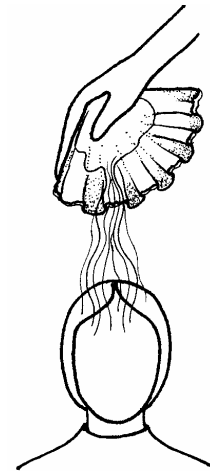
We hear St Paul encourage the Ephesians to live a life worthy of their Baptism. He begs them to maintain the unity of the Spirit because there is "one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Eph 4.5)

### Praise and thanks

By our Baptism, we are adopted as the sons and daughters of God the Father. We praise God because he has encouraged us to call him Father and we thank him for his generosity to us in raising us to so great a dignity.

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

*Matthew 28:18-20*



## A Sacrament for Life

### The sacramental character

Once we are baptised, we can never be "unbaptised" or baptised again. We are given a permanent seal or mark upon the soul which makes us Christians, children of God and members of the Church.

### Christians

We have the name of Christian and the calling to follow Jesus Christ. We are also called Catholics because the word Catholic means "universal" and we are called to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to everyone.

### Children of God

Jesus Christ is the second person of the Blessed Trinity. He is the Son of God from all eternity. One of the greatest gifts that he brought us is that we are also made the sons and daughters of God the Father by our Baptism. That is why Jesus taught us to call God "Our Father".

### Members of the Church

By our Baptism, we become part of the community of the Church. We are people chosen by God. In his call to Abraham, God chose the Jewish people. Jesus extended this choice of God to all people in the world.

### Renewing our Baptism

Most of us were small children at our Baptism. Our parents arranged for us to be baptised just as they arranged many other things for our benefit, to give us the best in life that they could give us.

But now we can make the same promises on our own behalf. We renew our baptismal promises at Easter and, in a solemn way at the Confirmation Mass.

## Traditional prayers

### Act of faith

O my God, I believe in you  
and all that your Church teaches,  
because you have said it  
and your word is true.

### Act of hope

O my God, I hope in you,  
for grace and for glory,  
because of your promises,  
your mercy and your power.

### Act of charity

O my God, because you are so good,  
I love you with all my heart  
and for your sake,  
I love my neighbour as myself.

# I have called you by your name you are mine

## You and your saint

Answer the questions in the spaces below.

What is the name you have chosen for Confirmation?

Say something about your saint.

Why did you choose this saint?

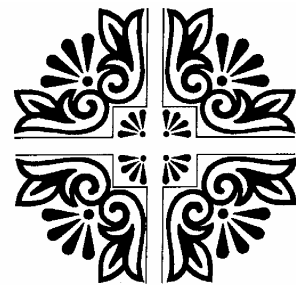
Compose a short prayer to your saint.

## At Sunday Mass

Listen carefully today to the Bidding Prayers at Mass. These are often prayers in different categories:

- For the Church or for particular ministries in the Church
- For the needs of the country, the government or of leaders in the world.
- For those in poverty or illness or in some other need.
- For the local community, the parish or some local need.

We then say a prayer to Our Lady and we usually have a time of silent prayer. Try to think of some particular need that you wish to pray for, especially one that will be of benefit to your local Church.



## Scripture

In your bible, look up St Paul's 1st letter to the Corinthians, chapter 12, verses 12-26.

"There are no more slaves or free". What other possible groups are there that are equal within the Church?

What image does St Paul use to show that we are all important even though we are all different?

Can you think of some examples of different gifts that people have that are of value to us all in the Church?

## Follow up

At home, look up the text of the Creed in your prayerbook. How is it divided up (look at the parts beginning "We believe") How much of it do you understand? How can you get to understand it better?