

an Order of Service for
HOLY BAPTISM



ST JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH
86 Clendon Rd, Toorak, Victoria

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE
FROM THE CHURCH

A PASTORAL NOTE

Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God which continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. For all involved, particularly the candidates but also parents, godparents and sponsors, it is a joyful moment when we rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ, making serious promises and declaring the faith. The wider community of the local church and friends welcome the new Christian, promising support and prayer for the future. Hearing and doing these things provides an opportunity to remember our own baptism and reflect on the progress made on that journey, which is now to be shared with this new member of the Church.

The service paints many vivid pictures of what happens on the Christian way. There is the sign of the cross, the badge of faith in the Christian journey, which reminds us of Christ's death for us. Our 'drowning' in the water of baptism, where we believe we die to sin and are raised to new life, unites us to Christ's dying and rising, a picture that can be brought home vividly by the way the baptism is administered. Water is also a sign of new life, as we are born again by water and the Spirit, as Jesus was at his baptism. And as a sign of that new life, there may be a lighted candle, a picture of the light of Christ conquering the darkness of evil. Everyone who is baptized walks in that light for the rest of their lives.

As you pray for the candidates, picture them with yourself and the whole Church throughout the ages, journeying into the fullness of God's love.

Jesus said, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.' John 10.10.

From: 'Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England'.

PREPARATION

The greeting

The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Introduction

Baptism is the gift of our Lord Jesus Christ.

When he had risen from the dead, he commanded his followers to go and make disciples of all nations baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

We have come together today to obey that command.

Baptism with water 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 of God are visibly signed and sealed for us. We are joined to Christ, and made members of his body, the Church universal.

Where children unable to answer for themselves are to be baptized, the priest continues

Children are baptised in response to God's all-embracing love. Parents and godparents who have responded to that love come now to bring their children for baptism. Before this congregation they must express their own trust and commitment to the promises of God, and their intention to bring up their children in the faith and practice of the

Church. In due time these children should make their own response to God, and be prepared for confirmation.

The priest says the Collect or 'gathering prayer'

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit
you give to your faithful people new life in the water of
baptism.
Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit,
that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love,
and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy
Spirit
now and for ever.
All Amen.

(optional) **THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD
(or THE READINGS)**

One or more passages from the Bible may be read.

(i) A reading from the Prophet Isaiah ch. 43.

But now thus says the Lord,
 he who created you, O Jacob,
 he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
 I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
 and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
 and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
 the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
 Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
 and honoured, and I love you,
whom I created for my glory,
 whom I formed and made.'

Hear the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

(ii) A reading from the Letter to the Romans ch. 6

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

Hear the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

(iii) A reading from the Letter to the Galatians ch. 3.

As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.

Hear the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

(iv) A reading from the Gospel according to St Mark ch. 1.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight” ’,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.’

Hear the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

(v) A reading from the Gospel according to St John ch. 3.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.’ Jesus answered him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.’ Nicodemus said to him, ‘How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?’ Jesus answered, ‘Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, “You

must be born from above.” The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.’

Hear the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

One or more further readings from places other than the Bible may be read.

THE PRESENTATION

The candidates for baptism may be presented to the priest and congregation, where appropriate, by their sponsors, and/or parent/s and godparent/s.

The priest asks those able to answer for themselves

Do you wish to be baptized?

I do.

The priests addresses the congregation, saying

Faith is the gift of God to his people.

In baptism the Lord is adding to our number those whom he is calling.

Will you welcome this/these children/candidates and uphold them in their new life in Christ?

The congregation respond, saying

All We will, with God's help.

At the baptism of children, the president then says to the parents and godparents

Parents and godparents, the Church receives these children with joy.

Today we are trusting God for their growth in faith.

Will you pray for them, draw them by your example into the community of faith,
and walk with them in the way of Christ?

The parents and godparents respond, saying

We will, with God's help.

The priest continues

In baptism this/these child/children begin their journey in faith.

You speak for them today.

Will you care for them,
and help them to take their place
within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

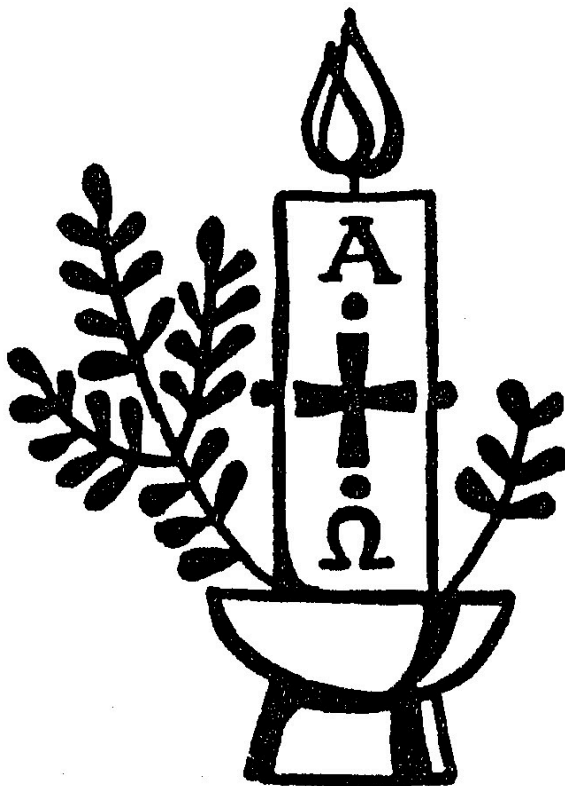
The parents and godparents respond, saying

We will, with God's help.

THE PASCHAL CANDLE

The priest says

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvelous light. Each year, at Easter, the paschal (Easter) candle is brought into the dark church and lit, reminding us of Jesus, who said 'I am the light of the world' (John 8.12), a 'light no darkness can extinguish' (John 1.5). In baptism, God calls us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.



THE DECISION

The priest says to the parents and godparents of those unable to answer for themselves:

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

I will.

Are you willing to answer on behalf of this child?

I am.

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

I will, with God's help.

The priest says to candidates able to answer for themselves; and to the parents and godparents of those unable to answer for themselves:

Before God and this congregation, you must now 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, 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 WATER OF BAPTISM

The priest (and other ministers), and the candidates and their sponsors, may move to the baptismal font if not already at that place.

There may be a hymn, canticle, or psalm.

Water is poured into the font.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.
In it we are buried with Christ in his death.
By it we share in his resurrection.
Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.
Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son,
we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.

The priest blesses the water, saying

Now (+) bless and sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,
they who are baptized in it may be cleansed from sin and born again.
Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be all honour and glory, now and for ever.
All Amen.

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

The priest addresses the congregation, saying

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess and affirm
(together with this/these candidate/s)
the faith of the Church.

All who are able to stand to say the Creed

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in God the Son?

**All 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?

***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.***

The priest asks candidate/s able to answer for themselves

N. is this your faith?

This is my faith.

THE BAPTISM

The priest pours water over the candidate/s, saying

N. I baptize you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy spirit.
All Amen.



THE OIL OF BAPTISM (CHRISM) & SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

*After each Baptism the priest makes a cross on the
forehead of the candidate/s, saying*

N. I sign you with the sign of the cross
to show that you are marked
as Christ's own for ever.
All Amen.

The priest then says this blessing for the candidate/s

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 COMMISSIONING & PRAYERS

The priest says these words of commissioning

N. (and N.),
today God has touched you with his love
and given you a place among his people.
God promises to be with you
in joy and in sorrow,
to be your guide in life,
and to bring you safely to heaven.
In baptism God invites you on a life-long journey.
Together with all God's people
you must explore the way of Jesus
and grow in friendship with God,
in love for his people,
and in serving others.

Let us now pray for grace in guiding this/these child/ren in
the way of faith.

Faithful and loving God,
bless those who care for this child / these children
and grant them your gifts of love, wisdom and faith.
Pour upon them your healing and reconciling love,
and protect their home from all evil.
Fill them with the light of your presence
and establish them in the joy of your kingdom,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
All Amen.

The prayers conclude with the Lord's Prayer

Let us pray, as our Saviour Christ has taught us to do, saying together:

**All Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BAPTISMAL CANDLE

The priest addresses the newly baptized, saying

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

And the congregation responds, saying,

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

The baptismal candle is lit from the Paschal (Easter) candle, and handed to the candidate, or to one of their sponsors. The priest continues, saying

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

And the congregation responds, saying

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

THE WELCOME

The priest addresses all of the newly baptised, saying

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism;
For by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.
God has now called you into his church.

And the congregation responds, saying

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

*The baptism certificates may be presented to the newly
baptized and/or the sponsors.*

THE BLESSING

The priest concludes with the blessing

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep
your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and
the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.
All Amen.



Messy Church is in the Buxton Hall St John's
from 4pm on the first Sunday of each month

Messy Church is for children of all ages
We begin with crafts and other activities
pause for a short service in the Church
and return to the Hall for a meal (provided)
Concluding by 6pm

Children of all ages and their parent/s welcome

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Vicar

The Venerable Dr Bradley S. Billings
BTh BMin MA(*Cl&Arch*) ThD



Sunday Services

8am Holy Communion

10am Sung Eucharist

5pm Evening Prayer

Order of Service from *A Prayer Book for Australia 1995*. Broughton Books by E.J.Dwyer (Australia) Pty Ltd, Unit 13, Perry Park, 33 Maddox Street, Alexandria, NSW 2015. © 1995, The Anglican Church of Australia Trust Corporation. And from *Common Worship 2000: Services and Prayers for the Church of England*. © 2000 & *New Patterns for Worship 2002* Church House Publishing. Additional material from Simon Rundell, *Creative Ideas for Sacramental Worship with Children*, Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2011.