



# The Baptism of Infants



## Order of Service

please leave this sheet behind in church

*St. Matthew's Church, Wych Lane, Gosport, Hampshire, PO13 0JN  
In partnership with Bridgemy Community Sports College*

[www.StMatthewsBridgemy.org.uk](http://www.StMatthewsBridgemy.org.uk)



## Pastoral Introduction

*This may be read by those present before the service begins.*

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. This reminds us of Jesus' 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*

# Holy Baptism

## 1. The Greeting

Priest      The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God and the fellowship of  
the Holy Spirit be with you all

**All**            **and also with you.**



Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us that to enter the kingdom of heaven we must be born again of water and the Spirit, and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth. Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean. Here we are clothed with Christ, dying to sin that we may live his risen life. As children of God, we have a new dignity and God calls us to fullness of life.

We join in Singing **The Gloria**  
from the **Mass of Light** by David Haas



Glory to God in the highest, sing glory to God  
Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth  
**Glory to God in the highest, sing glory to God**  
**Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth**  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
Almighty God and Father  
We worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory  
**Glory to God in the highest sing glory to God**  
**Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth**  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God

You take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us  
You are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
receive our prayer

**Glory to God in the highest, sing glory to God**

**Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth**

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
the most high Jesus Christ

With the Holy Spirit in the Glory of God the Father

**Glory to God in the highest, sing glory to God**

**Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth**

**Glory to God in the highest sing glory to God**

**Glory to God in the highest and peace to His people on earth**

**Priest** Heavenly Father,  
by the power of your Holy Spirit  
you give 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.

## **2. Gospel Reading or another suitable bible reading**

Minister Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*

**All** Glory to you, O Lord.

*at the end*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All** Praise to you, O Christ.



### 3. Sermon – Address or some words to think about

### 4. Presentation of the Candidates

*Priest* Faith is the gift of God to his people.  
In baptism the Lord is adding to our number  
those whom he is calling.  
People of God, will you welcome *these children/candidates*  
and uphold *them* in *their* new life in Christ?

**All** **With the help of God,we will.**

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?

**With the help of God,we will.**

In baptism *these 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?

**With the help of God,we will.**

## **5. The Decision**

*Priest* In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light.

To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

**Parents & Godparents**      **I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

**Parents & Godparents**      **I renounce them.**

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

**Parents & Godparents**      **I repent of them.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

**Parents & Godparents**      **I turn to Christ.**

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

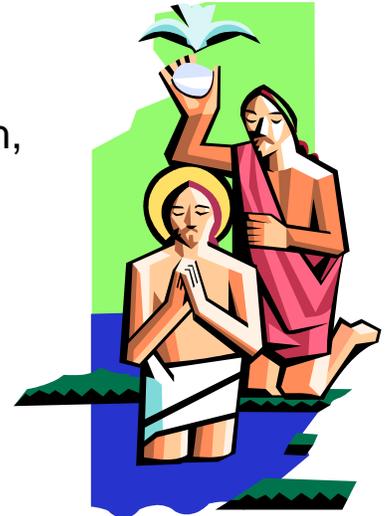
**Parents & Godparents**      **I submit to Christ.**

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

**Parents & Godparents**      **I come to Christ.**

## 6. Prayer over the Water

*Priest* Praise God who made heaven and earth,  
*All* **who keeps his promise for ever.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*All* **It is right to give thanks and praise.**



We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life. Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.

Through water you led the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life. 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. Now + sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, they 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.**

## 7. Profession of Faith

*Priest* Brothers and sisters in Christ,  
I ask you to profess together the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**All I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in 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.**

## **8. Baptism**

*Priest* N, I baptize you  
in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**All Amen.**

*If the newly baptized are clothed with a white robe, a hymn  
or song may be used, and then a minister may say*



Priest You have been clothed with Christ.  
As many as are baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

## **9. Signing with the Cross**

*The priest makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate, saying*

Priest Christ claims you for his own.  
Receive the sign of his cross.

*All* Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.  
**Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ  
against sin, the world and the devil,  
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

Priest May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,  
restore in you the image of his glory,  
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

*All* **Amen.**

*Priest* 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.**

## **10. The Welcome and Peace**

Priest There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:  
*N and N*, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.

*All* **We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;  
we are children of the same heavenly Father;  
we welcome you.**

Priest      We are all one in Christ Jesus.  
              We belong to him through faith,  
              heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

All            The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

*We sing together*

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there is hatred let me bring your love;  
Where there is injury your pardon, Lord;  
And where there's doubt true faith in you.

*Refrain:*

*Oh, Master grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.*

Make me a channel of your peace.  
Where there's despair in life let me bring hope;  
Where there is darkness, only light;  
And where there's sadness, ever joy.

*Refrain*

Make me a channel of your peace.  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
In giving to all men that we receive;  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.

## 11. The Prayers

*All* Lord, make us instruments of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let us sow love;  
where there is injury, let there be pardon;  
where there is discord, union;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy;  
for your mercy and for your truth's sake. Amen.

*Priest* As Jesus taught us to call God our Father,  
so we have the courage to say:

*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.**

## 12. The Collection is gathered from the congregation

*We listen to some music while The Collection is taken and received at the altar*

*If you pay tax please fill in one of the Gift Aid envelopes because each £10 you give enables us to reclaim £2.50 from the tax-man at no cost to you.*

*GIFT AID envelopes and pens are in the seats in front of you*

### **13. The Blessing**

*Priest*     The God of all grace,  
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,  
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All**         **Amen.**

### **14. Giving of a Lighted Candle**

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness  
and has given us a place with the saints in light.  
You have received the light of Christ;  
walk in this light all the days of your life.

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



### **15. The Dismissal**

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

**All**         **Thanks be to God.**



*There is music to listen to and a chance  
to take photographs*

*Come and join us at St Matthew's Church  
Every Sunday 10:00am*

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