

- Welcome to St Clement's, Sandwich for this Holy Baptism -

The Greeting

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

And also with you.

The celebrant welcomes everyone, and leads a prayer.

Bible Reading and Homily

Preparing for Baptism

The baptism party are invited to the front. The celebrant asks the congregation these questions:

Will you support this child as they begin their journey of faith?

We will!

Will you help them to live and grow within God's family?

We will!

The celebrant addresses the parents and godparents:

Parents and godparents, the Church receives N with joy as they begin their journey in faith. Today we are trusting God for their growth in faith. Will you pray for them, care for them, walk with them in the way of Christ, and help them to take their place within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

They answer: With the help of God, we will

The celebrant continues to address parents and godparents:

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?

They answer: I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

They answer: I renounce them.

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

They answer: I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

They answer: I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

They answer: I submit to Christ.

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

They answer: I come to Christ.

The Signing with the Cross

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

The celebrant, parents, and godparents makes the sign of the Cross on the infant's forehead using their thumbs.

Then the celebrant says:

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.

Amen.

The celebrant takes up the holy oil of catechumens:

We anoint you with the oil of salvation in the name of Christ our Saviour; may he strengthen you with his power, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

The celebrant says:

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.

Prayer over the Water

We gather at the font:

Praise God who made heaven and earth.

Who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 baptise 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.

Amen.

Profession of Faith

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess together with these candidates the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

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?

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 Baptism

The infant is brought to the font, and water is sprinkled on its forehead as the celebrant says:

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

The celebrant takes up the holy oil of chrism:

God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and welcomed you into his holy people. He now anoints you with the chrism of salvation. As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet, and King, so may you live always as a member of his body, sharing everlasting life.

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

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

The Prayers

Prayers are said, ending with:

**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 Blessing and Dismissal

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. **Amen.**

Go in the light and peace of Christ!

Thanks be to God!