

# Celebration of Baptism



St Bride's Parish Church, West Kilbride

## RECEPTION OF THE CHILD

*A suitable hymn may be sung by the people. The Priest then questions the parents in these words:*

***Priest:***

What name have you given your child?

***Parents:***

N. *(The parents give the child's Christian name.)*

***Priest:***

What do you ask of God's Church for N.?

***Parents:***

**Baptism.**

***Priest:***

You have asked to have your child baptised. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him (her) in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him (her) up to keep God's Commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbour. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

***Parents:***

**We do.**

*The Priest now addresses the Godparents as follows:*

***Priest:***

Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as Christian parents?

**Godparents:**

**We are**

*The Priest turns to the Child and says:*

N., the Christian Community welcomes you with great joy. In its name I claim you for Christ our Saviour by the sign of his cross. I now trace the cross on your forehead, and invite your parents and Godparents to do the same.

*He signs the child on the forehead in silence and invites the Parents and Godparents to do the same.*

## **CELEBRATION OF GOD'S WORD**

*A Gospel passage is read (see back section of this Booklet) to which all listen attentively. A friend or family member may come forward to read the chosen text. The Reading tells us of what God has revealed to us about Baptism, and of the new life, a share in God's life, that is to be given to the Child. After the Reading the priest may give a short Homily.*

## **THE BIDDING PRAYERS**

*The Intercessions now follow. A Friend or Family Member may come forward to lead the Intercessions.*

**Priest:**

Brothers and Sisters, let us ask our Lord Jesus Christ to look lovingly on this Child who is to be baptised, on his (her) parents and Godparents and on all the baptised.

***Reader:***

By the mystery of your death and resurrection, bathe this Child in light, give him (her) the new life of Baptism and welcome him (her) into your Holy Church. Lord, hear us.

***All:***

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

***Reader:***

Through the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, make him (her) your faithful follower and a witness to your Gospel. Lord, hear us.

***All:***

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

***Reader:***

Protect and accompany this Child throughout his (her) life. Guide him (her) into his (her) future and may he (she) always be aware of your loving presence. Lord, hear us

***All:***

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

***Reader:***

Make the lives of his (her) parents and Godparents examples of faith to inspire this Child. Lord, hear us

***All:***

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

***Reader:***

Keep his (her) family always in your love. Lord, hear us.

*All:*

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

*Reader:*

Renew the grace of our Baptism in each one of us. Lord, hear us.

*All:*

**Lord, graciously hear us.**

## **INVOCATION OF SAINTS**

*The Priest leads the Invocation of the Saints, as follows:*

Holy Mary, Mother of God, **Pray for us.**

Saint Michael the Archangel, **Pray for us.**

Saint John the Baptist, **Pray for us.**

Saint Joseph, **Pray for us.**

Saint Peter and Saint Paul, **Pray for us.**

Saint Andrew, **Pray for us.**

Saint Anthony, **Pray for us.**

Saint George, **Pray for us.**

Saint Francis of Assisi, **Pray for us.**

Saint Theresa of the Child Jesus, **Pray for us.**

Saint Monica, **Pray for us.**

Saint Catherine of Siena, **Pray for us.**

Saint Ninian, **Pray for us.**

Saint Bride, **Pray for us.**

All the saints and martyrs of Scotland. **Pray for us.**

Saint N. **Pray for us.**

*The Priest may add the names of other saints. The Litany then concludes.*

All holy men and women. **Pray for us.**

## **EXORCISM AND ANOINTING**

*The Prayer of Exorcism and the Anointing with Oil of Catechumens, prepare the Child for the coming of the new life of God in Baptism.*

***Priest:***

Almighty and ever-living God, you sent your only Son into the world to cast out the power of Satan, spirit of evil, to rescue man from the kingdom of darkness, and bring him into the splendour of your kingdom of light. We pray for this child: set him (her) free from original sin, make him (her) a temple of your glory, and send your Holy Spirit to dwell with him (her). We ask this through Christ our Lord.

***All:***

**Amen.**

*The Priest continues:*

***Priest:***

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.

***All:***

**Amen.**

*The Priest anoints the Child on the breast with the Oil of Catechumens, to strengthen the child with the power of Christ.*

## **CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

*At the font the Priest reminds those present of the wonderful work of God whose plan it is to sanctify man, body and soul, through water. He may use these or similar words:*

***Priest:***

Brothers and Sisters, God uses the sacrament of water to give his divine life to those who believe in him. Let us turn to him, and ask him to pour his gift of life from this font on this child he has chosen.

### **BLESSING AND INVOCATION OVER THE BAPTISMAL WATER**

***Priest:***

Father, God of mercy, through these waters of Baptism you have filled us with new life as your very own children. Blessed be God.

***All:***

**Blessed be God.**

***Priest:***

From all who are baptised in water and the Holy Spirit, you have formed one people, united in your Son Jesus Christ.

***All:***

**Blessed be God.**

***Priest:***

You have set us free and filled our hearts with the Spirit of your love, that we may live in your peace.

***All:***

**Blessed be God.**

***Priest:***

You call those who have been baptised to announce the Good News of Jesus Christ to people everywhere.

***All:***

**Blessed be God.**

*The Priest touches the water with his right hand and continues:*

***Priest:***

Lord, make holy this water which you have created, so that all those whom you have chosen may be born again by the power of the Holy Spirit, and may take their place among your holy people.

***All:***

**Amen.**

## **RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH**

*The parents and Godparents now stand and gather around the Baptismal Font facing the Congregation.*

***Priest:***

Dear parents and Godparents: You have come here to present this child for Baptism. By water and the Holy Spirit he (she) is to receive the gift of new life from God, who is love. On your part, you must make it your constant care to bring him (her) up in the practice of the faith. See that the divine life which God gives him (her) is kept safe from the poison of sin, to grow always stronger in his (her) heart.

If your faith makes you ready to accept this responsibility, renew now the vows of your own Baptism. Reject sin; profess your faith in Christ Jesus. This is the faith of the Church. This is the faith in which this child is about to be baptised.

*The Priest invites the Parents and Godparents to reject sin and profess their faith.*

***Priest:***

Do you reject Satan?

***Parents and Godparents:***

**I do.**

***Priest:***

And all his works?

***Parents and Godparents:***

**I do.**

***Priest:***

And all his empty promises?

***Parents and Godparents:***

**I do.**

***Priest:***

Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

***Parents and Godparents:***

**I do.**

***Priest:***

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, was crucified, died, and was buried, rose from the dead, and is now seated at the right hand of the Father?

***Parents and Godparents:***

**I do.**

***Priest:***

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

***Parents and Godparents:***

**I do.**

***Priest:***

This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***All:***

**Amen.**

## **SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

*Before the Baptism itself, the Priest asks parents and Godparents this final question:*

***Priest:***

Is it your will that N. should be baptised in the faith of the Church, which we have all professed with you?

***Parents and Godparents:***

**It is.**

*One of the parents or Godparents holds the Child over the font. The Priest pours water over the child's head three times, saying:*

***Priest:***

**N., I BAPTISE YOU IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, ✠  
AND OF THE SON, ✠  
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. ✠  
AMEN**



**ANOINTING WITH CHRISM**

*After Baptism comes the Anointing with Chrism, the Christian's consecration to God. The Priest introduces it as follows:*

***Priest:***

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 this 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.

***All:***

**Amen.**

*The Priest anoints the child on the crown of the head with the Sacred Chrism in silence.*

## CLOTHING WITH THE WHITE GARMENT

***Priest:***

N., you have become a new creation, and have clothed yourself in Christ. See in this white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity. With your family and friends to help you by word and example, bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven.

***All:***

**Amen.**

*The white garment is put on the child, usually by the Godmother.*

## THE LIGHTED CANDLE

*One of the Godparents lights the Baptismal Candle from the Easter Candle.*

***Priest:***

Receive the light of Christ.

Parents and Godparents, this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. This child of yours has been enlightened by Christ. He (she) is to walk always as a child of the light. May he (she) keep the flame of faith alive in his (her) heart. When the Lord comes, may he (she) go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.

***All:***

**Amen.**

## EPHPHETHA - PRAYER OVER EARS AND MOUTH

*The Priest touches the ears and mouth of the Child with his thumb, saying.*

***Priest:***

The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father.

***All:***

**Amen.**

*Then all the People respond together.*

***Priest:***

Let us now express our joy and thanksgiving as we say together.

***All:***

**You have put on Christ,  
in him you have been baptised.  
Alleluia, alleluia.**

## **CONCLUSION OF THE RITE**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*As a new member of the Church, the Child has a right to take part in the Eucharist, and, when old enough, will receive Holy Communion from the altar, God's table. As a sign of this future event, all say the Lord's Prayer on behalf of the child. First, the Priest addresses all present:*

***Priest:***

Brothers and Sisters, this Child has been reborn in Baptism. He (she) is now called the Child of God, for so indeed he (she) is. In Confirmation he (she) will receive the fullness of God's Spirit. In Holy Communion he (she) will share the banquet of Christ's sacrifice, calling God his (her) Father in the midst of the Church. In the name of this child, in the Spirit

of God's Holy People, let us pray together in the words our Lord has given us:

*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. Amen.**

### **THE BLESSING**

*The Priest now blesses the Mother, who holds her Child in her arms, then the Father and lastly the entire Assembly.*

*Priest:*

God the Father, through his Son, the Virgin Mary's child, has brought joy to all Christian mothers, as they see the hope of eternal life shine on their children. May he bless N. the mother of this child. She now thanks God for the gift of her child. May she be one with him (her) in thanking him for ever in heaven, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*All:*

**Amen.**

*Priest:*

God is the giver of all life, human and divine. May he bless N. the father of this child. He and his wife will be the first teachers of their child in the ways of faith. May they be also the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*All:*

**Amen.**

***Priest:***

By God's gift, through water and the Holy Spirit, we are reborn to everlasting life. In his goodness, may he continue to pour out his blessings upon his people here. May he make you always, wherever you may be, faithful members of his holy people. May he send his peace upon all who are gathered here, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***All:***

**Amen.**

***Priest:***

And may Almighty God bless you and protect you all, the Father, the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

***All:***

**Amen.**

# Gospel Readings

*Other suitable Readings may be taken from the Lectionary.*

## ✠ 1. *Matthew 22,35-40*

### **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**

To disconcert Jesus, one of the Pharisees, a lawyer, put this question, ‘Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?’ Jesus said, ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second resembles it. You must love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments hang the whole law, and the Prophets also. The Gospel of the Lord.

## ✠ 2. *Matthew 28,18-20*

### **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus came up and spoke to his disciples. He said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations: baptise them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I have you. And know that I am with you always, yes to the end of time.’ The Gospel of the Lord.

## ✠ 3. *Mark 1,9-11*

### **A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark**

Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a

voice came from heaven. ‘You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

✠ 4. *Mark 10,13-16*

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark**

People were bringing little children to Jesus, for him to touch them. The disciples turned them away, but when Jesus saw this he was indignant and said to them, ‘Let the little children come to me; do not stop them: for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. I tell you solemnly, anyone who does not welcome the Kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.’ Then he put his arms round them, laid his hands on them and gave them his blessing.

The Gospel of the Lord.

✠ 5. *John 3,1-6*

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John**

There was one of the Pharisees called Nicodemus, a leading Jew, who came to Jesus by night and said, ‘Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who comes from God; for no one could perform the signs that you do unless God were with him’. Jesus answered: ‘I tell you most solemnly, unless a man is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.’ Nicodemus said, ‘How can a grown man be born? Can he go back into his mother’s womb and be born again?’ Jesus replied: ‘I tell you most solemnly, unless a man is born through water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God: what is born of the flesh is flesh; what is born of the Spirit is spirit.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

✠ 6. *John 6,44-47*

**A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John**

Jesus said to the crowd, ‘No one can come to me unless he is drawn by the Father who sent me, and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets: They will all be taught by God: and to hear the teaching of the Father, and learn from it, is to come to me. Not that anybody has seen the Father, except the one who comes from God: he has seen the Father. I tell you most solemnly, everybody who believes has eternal life.’

The Gospel of the Lord.

✠ 7. *Mark 12,28-34*

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark**

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” “The most important one,” answered Jesus, “is this: ‘Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” “Well said, teacher,” the man replied. “You are right in saying that God is one and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and with all your strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.” When Jesus saw that he had answered wisely, he said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” And from then on no-one dared ask him any more questions.

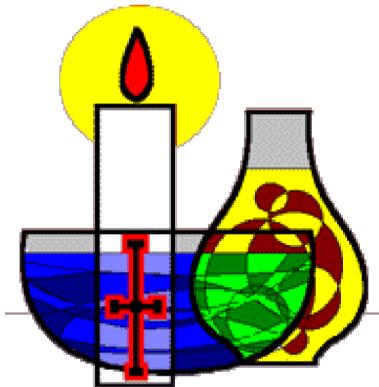
The Gospel of the Lord.

✠ 8. *John 15,1-11*

**A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to John**

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

The Gospel of the Lord.





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