



# **Saint Mary's Church, Oatlands, Weybridge**

## **Holy Baptism**



# Introduction

Baptism marks a public beginning to a journey with God that continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. For all involved, particularly the children being baptized but also parents, godparents and sponsors, it is a joyful moment when we rejoice in what God has done for us in Christ, make serious promises and declare our faith in God.

The Church and family and friends gather to welcome those being baptized into the family of God, and to promise support and prayer for the future. This provides an opportunity to remember our own baptism and to reflect on the progress we have made on that journey, which we will now be sharing with this new member of the Church.

The service paints many vivid pictures of what happens in baptism. There is the sign of the cross, which reminds us that Christ died for us.

The action of pouring water on the person being baptized symbolizes our 'drowning', in which we die to our old sinful life and become united with Christ in his own death and rising again.

The water itself is a sign of the new life we receive from the Holy Spirit after dying to our old life, a new life that we can live in the presence of a loving God who forgives us our failures and welcomes us with open arms.

And finally, there is a lighted candle, which represents 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 children being baptized, picture them with yourself and the whole Church throughout the ages, on a journey in which we experience God's love more fully each day.

*Please join in with text in **bold type***

## **Greeting**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

## **Welcome**

We gather together today for a very special reason: to celebrate the baptism of *N and N*. It is a day of joy when we come together as family and friends in order to see the marvellous things that God has done in their lives and also in our own lives.

## **Opening prayer**

*The minister says the following prayer:*

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. **Amen.**

## **The Word of God**

## **Gospel Reading**

## **The Baptism**

## **Presentation of the Candidates**

*The parents and godparents are invited to come forward with those to be baptized.*

*To the whole congregation:*

Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me. Do not stop them.'

We thank God for *these children*  
who *have* come to be baptized today.  
Christ welcomes *them* into his Church.

So I ask you all:

Will you help *these children* to become part of God's family?  
**We will.**

Will you promise to support *them* as *they* begin *their* journey of faith?  
**We will.**

*To the parents and godparents:*

Parents and godparents,  
you speak for *these children* today.  
God knows *them* by name and *they* are his.  
Will you pray for *them*,  
and help *them* to follow Christ?  
**We will.**

## **The Decision**

*The minister addresses the children through their parents and godparents.*

We all wander from God and lose our way:  
Christ comes to find us and welcomes us home.  
In baptism we respond to his call.

Therefore I ask you, parents and godparents:

Do you turn away from sin?  
**I turn away from sin.**

Do you reject evil?

**I reject evil.**

Do you turn to Christ?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you give your life to him?

**I give my life to him.**

### **Signing with the Cross**

*The minister makes the sign of the cross with oil on the forehead of each child, saying:*

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

*When all the children have received the sign of the cross, the minister says:*

Do not be ashamed of Christ. You are his for ever.

**Stand bravely with him.**

**Fight against the power of evil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

**Amen.**

### **Prayer over the Water**

*The minister and baptismal party gather at the font with those being baptized. Water is poured into the font. The minister stands before the water of baptism and says:*

We praise you, loving Father, for the gift of your Son Jesus.  
On him you poured out your Spirit at his baptism in the River Jordan.  
He sent his followers to baptise all who turn to him.  
And so, Father, we ask you to bless this water,  
that those who are baptized in it may be cleansed in the water of life, and  
filled with your Spirit, and know themselves loved as your children,  
safe in Christ for ever. **Amen.**

### **Declaration of Faith**

Let us affirm, together with these who are being baptized,  
our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe in God the Father,  
source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,  
who took our human nature,  
died for us and rose again?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God  
and makes Christ known in the world?

**I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

## The Baptism

*The minister pours water on each child, saying:*

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

**Amen.**

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.

**Amen.**

### Prayer for guidance

Let us now pray for grace in guiding *these children*  
in the way of faith.

Faithful and loving God,  
bless those who care for *these children*  
and grant *them* your gifts of love, wisdom and faith.  
Pour upon *them* your healing and reconciling love,  
and protect their homes 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.

**Amen.**

*Other prayers and intercessions may follow.*

## **The Lord's Prayer**

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.  
Amen.**

## **Welcome and Peace**

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:  
*N and N*, 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.**

*Notices may be given*

## **Sending Out**

### **Giving of a Lighted Candle**

God has delivered us from the power of darkness  
and has given us a place in light.

You have received the light of Christ;  
walk in this light all the days of your life.

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

### **Blessing and Dismissal**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**Amen.**

Let us go in the light and peace of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**After the service**

There will be a retiring collection as an act of thanksgiving. If you pay UK tax, please use the yellow Gift Aid envelopes in the pews, and kindly fill in the details.

The Minister will give a baptism certificate to the parent and cards to the godparents setting out their responsibilities.

There will be an opportunity to take photographs around the font.

If you would like to know more about our services and activities, please speak to any of our Sidespeople, the Vicar, or visit our website [www.oatlandschurch.org.uk](http://www.oatlandschurch.org.uk), our face book page Oatlands Church or on Twitter SMOatlands.

You could also call the Parish Office on 01932 231274 or email [parishoffice@oatlandschurch.org.uk](mailto:parishoffice@oatlandschurch.org.uk)

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