



What is so wonderful about the Catholic faith is how the ordinary can be transformed into the extra-ordinary. Anyone can hear about Jesus and history from 2000 years ago and about God loving us. But what is so amazing about the mystery of the sacraments is that God's love is actually given to us concretely - in a very real way, today. The seven sacraments are seven meeting points with God.

## SACRAMENTS



Parents read these bits

Every day we use signs and symbols. Signs point the way and give us direction. Symbols can hold special meaning for us too.

Ordinary, familiar things in our lives can stand for something deeper, far beyond themselves.

Using signs and symbols helps us to convey a meaning that can be much deeper than words.

A gold ring on a finger is more than just an item of jewellery. It is a sign of commitment, love, and self-giving.



Children read what is in the coloured boxes

? Can you think of any other signs and symbols that hold a deeper meaning?

*"sacraments are an outward and visible sign of an inward and invisible grace."*

*St Augustine of Hippo*

Try to answer this together. Just think of one or two things.



# JESUS USED SYMBOLS TO SHOW HIS LOVE



A sacrament is something we can see, hear, taste, feel and smell.



God so loved the world, and all in it, that he became a man. Jesus became part of the material world that he had made. He could see, hear, taste, feel and smell like us.

Jesus wanted to show us the Father's love in a real way. In his life, he often used ordinary things to show his love.



"Healing of the Blind Man" by Brian Jekel

Jesus' first sign was *turning water into wine* (read *John 2:1-11*) at a wedding feast in Cana. It shows God's abundant love and generosity. In his *healing of the man born blind* (read *John 9:6-7*), he made a paste out of his spit and dust from the ground and spread the mud on the man's eyes. It shows us the power of God.



Have a chat about any other examples you can think of when Jesus used ordinary things to show us God's love and glory. Why do you think he did that?

## THE CHURCH CONTINUES JESUS' MINISTRY

The Church, through the **sacraments**, also uses material things, words and actions as physical symbols of God's love for us: words, **water**, **oil**, **lit candles**, **white garment**, **bread**, **wine**, **laying on of hands**, sign of the cross on **forehead**, **lips** and **heart**, **rings**, joining of **hands**.



These symbols are powerful and effective because the **sacraments** use things from God the Father's created world; it is Christ who is at work in them, and it is his Holy Spirit poured into our lives through them.



Question 64: What are the sacraments? (p.108)



# THE SEVEN SACRAMENTS



Read the descriptions. Can you work out which of the following words fit with each sacrament?

- Reconciliation
- Anointing of the Sick
- Baptism
- Eucharist
- Holy Orders
- Confirmation
- Matrimony

## SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

This sacrament is one every Catholic receives. It makes us members of the Body of Christ. It is only received once in our life.



B \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

In this sacrament, we receive Christ himself and we unite ourselves to him as we share in his Body and Blood.



E \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

The person receiving this sacrament is blessed with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, as were the apostles on the day of Pentecost. It is only received once in our life.



C \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

## SACRAMENTS OF HEALING

This sacrament celebrates God's forgiving love for us. We say we are sorry for times we have done wrong. We ask for God's forgiveness.



R

This sacrament celebrates God's gifts of hope and healing. The priest lays his hands on the head of the sick person and anoints their forehead and hands, saying a prayer.



a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ o \_  
t \_ \_ s \_ \_

## SACRAMENTS OF MISSION

This sacrament celebrates the gift of priesthood. A priest chooses to give his life for the service of others in the Church. There are three Holy Orders: deacons, priests, bishops.



H \_ \_ \_ O \_ \_ \_ \_

This sacrament celebrates the gift of love and life and friendship between a man and a woman.



M \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

The sacraments are seven special ways to experience Jesus' presence, and through Jesus, God.



# BAPTISM: A SACRAMENT WE'VE RECEIVED ALREADY



The sacrament of baptism is a once-in-a-lifetime moment. People can never receive baptism for a second time. People can be baptised at any age: as a baby or as they are growing up. Whenever it happens, it is a very special time!

Did you know that a third of human beings on this planet have been baptised!



Parents share what you can remember about your child's baptism. Dig out any photos, baptism certificate, and baptism garment or baptism candles. Have fun looking at them together. Parents explain why you decided to have your child baptised.



Question 68: Why are babies baptised when they cannot even decide for themselves if they want to be baptised? (p.112)

## MY BAPTISM DAY

DATE OF MY BAPTISM .....

MY GODPARENT(S) .....



# BAPTISM IS LIKE OPENING A DOOR



*“Baptism is a response to the love of God in the presence of God among the people of God.”*

Baptism is called the gateway to a life with God. Jesus came to give us life to the full – a real life full of joy, peace and hope!



Walking through the “door” of baptism, you can experience life in a whole new way. Baptism opens you up to God’s presence and help, through the many challenges that life will throw at you.

It is only after our baptism that we can receive the other sacraments – which are meeting points with God. At the end of your life, as you approach the “door” called death, it won’t be the end. You’ll be able to walk through it to **eternal life** in heaven.

## IN BAPTISM, WE USED OUR SENSES



In baptism, we **felt** the water when it was poured over us. We **heard** the words of the priest or deacon: “I baptise you in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” We **saw** the flickering candle – a sign of Jesus’ presence.



**YOU**CAT  
for  
Kids

Question 65: How is baptism administered? (p.110)

## WATER AT BAPTISM

In the early years of the church, it was only adults that received baptism. They were taken down to a river and baptised in deep running water. They went right down under the water. Then they came up again and took a great gulp of fresh air.

We need water in everyday life. Without water we cannot live! Water speaks to us of LIFE itself. Water can also be dangerous to us. Water can also speak to us of DEATH.



Have a chat about how water can be life-giving and how water can be dangerous.





Join the bubbles in the right order to complete the verse (Colossians 2:12)

... **having been** through your faith ...

**with him**

**with him**

**in baptism and**

**with him**

Question 66:  
What does baptism do to me? (p.111)

“When we were baptised we joined Jesus in death so that we might walk in the newness of his life”

Just as Jesus died and rose again, so the followers of Jesus copy him using water to act out DYING and RISING to new LIFE. By doing this, we act out the belief that:

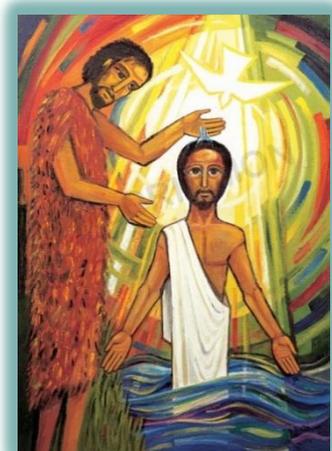
LIFE is stronger than DEATH; LOVE is stronger than HATE;  
GOODNESS is stronger than EVIL; LIGHT is stronger than DARKNESS.



## WATER IN THE BIBLE – JESUS IS BAPTISED



Find together the passage in the bible about Jesus’ baptism in the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 3, verses 13 to 17 (**Matthew 3:13-17**). Have a **chat** about what the passage shows us about Jesus’ baptism.



Parents, please take a minute to read and reflect on the bible passage before looking at it with your child.



PARENTS, WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR...

- John the Baptist is Jesus’ cousin.
- John had been baptising people of their sins in the river Jordan for a while.
- John believed that Jesus should baptise him, not the other way around.
- When Jesus was baptised, something new began: he was not only baptised with water but he was also baptised by the Holy Spirit. He instituted the sacrament of baptism.



## WORDS AT BAPTISM

During our baptism, the Priest or Deacon said your name first and then as he poured water over your head. You were baptised by name because God knows **YOU** by name. God loves you for who you are!



Fill in your name below. Then read out the sentence with pride!

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and  
God knows me and loves me for who I am!

When you are baptised, you become a child of God the **FATHER**; who is able to grow more like Jesus the **SON**; through the power of the **HOLY SPIRIT** who lives in you.



Parents tell your child why you chose their name.

As the Priest or Deacon poured water over your head, he said God's name - "I baptise you in the name of the **Father**, and the **Son**, and the **Holy Spirit**." You became a child of God!

## OIL AT BAPTISM

At your baptism, the Priest or Deacon **anointed** or rubbed the crown or top of your head with the **oil of Chrim**. Chrim is olive oil scented with a sweet perfume.



Did you know that when our Queen, Elizabeth II, was crowned she was also anointed with the oil of chrim!



Being anointed with the oil of Chrim, it is like you have been anointed a King or Queen and have a place in God's royal family!

## WHITE GARMENT AT BAPTISM

At your baptism, you were clothed with Christ. That is why you were wrapped in a white garment. It is white like the glowing light of Jesus Christ.



The white garment symbolises how you have received a new identity. You are no longer just your parents' child but also God's child now! You can walk with your head held high, knowing that you are special and loved by God.



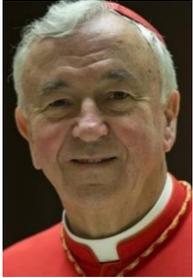
# CANDLE AT BAPTISM



A lit candle was given to your parents or godparents. The candle is a symbol of faith in Christ, who is the light of the world.



You, your parents, godparents and church family have an awesome responsibility to keep the **flame of faith** alive and shine the light of Christ into the world around you.



*"[The baptism] candle is a sign of the faith and light that comes to us from Christ. It is easily blown out, but not if we stand together. That is why the church, parents and godparents are here standing alongside you, and handing on this gift of faith. It is impossible to live a life of faith on your own. We need to be together, to join forces so the light of Christ will be strong."*

Cardinal Vincent Nichols



Time to learn a traditional prayer – the Our Father



Question 149: Why do we pray the Our Father? (p.212)



Question 69: What is a godparent? (p.113)

# CARRYING ON THE BLESSING OF BAPTISM

*This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.*  
- matthew 3:17

Because of your baptism, you are called a son or daughter of God, and you have something very special to do. You are called to share God's love with other people and help them to know about Jesus.



Write down (or draw) ways you can find out more about Jesus so that you can help to spread the GOOD NEWS and share God's love.

Just think of one or two things



One way to share God's love is to receive a blessing and to bless others, "May God bless you". Parents why not bless your child when saying good night this evening?



Question 157: How do you bless someone? (p.221)

