

Monday 19th October

# **Reveal Focus**

Reveal Focus 1: Describe the  
Sacrament of Baptism

## **What is baptism?**

When a baby is born, it is a time of celebration for their family. The parents want to share their joy and happiness and provide a loving home with their child.

They do this by asking for Baptism for their child so that they are accepting the invitation to join the Church family on behalf of their child.

Sometimes the Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated when the parish family is gathered together for Mass. Sometimes family and friends come together in church at another time. A person may be baptised at any age. It is a sacrament that only may be received once in a lifetime.

When parents bring their child for Baptism they are invited to make a promise or a commitment to help their child to grow up to love God and to love others.

Baptism is a Sacrament, an occasion when God's love and presence touches our lives in a special way.

We celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism, in the name of the Trinity: God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

A Sacrament helps us to appreciate who God is, what God is like, and what God is doing everywhere and for each person. It is God saying. 'I am with you and I love you.'

The prophet Jeremiah speaks of God's love for us in the Book of Jeremiah chapter 31: 3

*God says this, 'I have loved you with an everlasting love, so I am constant in my affection for you.'*

- q Why do Christian parents want to have their children baptised?
- q How do you think parents can share their love and faith with their children?
- q Why is Baptism a special time?
- q How do the Sacraments help Christians?
- q What did you think or feel when you heard the words of Jeremiah?



*God says this, 'I have loved you with an everlasting love, so I am constant in my affection for you.'*

Jeremiah chapter 31: 3.



*There are seven sacraments.*

- Baptism
- Eucharist
- Reconciliation
- Confirmation
- Marriage
- Ordination
- Sacrament of the Sick

*A Sacrament helps us to appreciate who God is, what God is like, and what God is doing everywhere and for each person.*

## SACRAMENTS

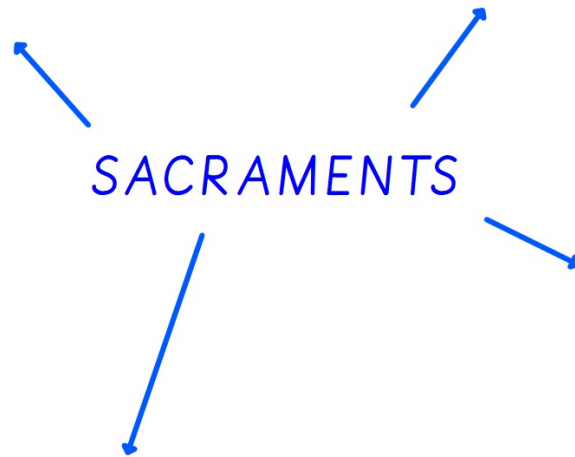
### BAPTISM

*Baptism is an invitation to join the Church family.*

*Receiving a Sacrament is God saying. 'I am with you and I love you.'*

*God stays with us for our journey through life.  
The Holy Spirit comes to a person through baptism.  
The Holy Spirit gives us guidance, courage and strength to live according to God's ways.*

Can you explain what a  
Sacrament is?



Wednesday

# Reveal Focus

**Can you remember how many Sacraments there are?**

**Can you describe any similarities between them?**



Reveal Focus 2: Describe and give reasons for the actions and symbols used at Baptism.

# BAPTISM

Baptism is an invitation to join the Church family. When a baby or younger child is baptised, the parents accept the invitation on behalf of their child. Older children and adults accept the invitation themselves. Often adults are baptised at Easter.

Baptism is a special time for the person who is to be baptised for their family and friends and the parish community.

Sometimes the sacrament of Baptism is celebrated when the parish family is gathered together for Mass. At other times family and friends come together in church at another time.

## Baptismal celebration for a baby



### **WELCOME**

The Easter candle is lit.

The priest greets everyone who has come to the celebration.

He asks the parents, "What name have you given your child?"

When they have answered he asks, "What do you ask of God's Church for N.....?"

They may reply, "Baptism."

The priest asks the parents if they will bring up their child to live in God's way. He asks the godparents if they will help the child's parents to do this.

### **THE SIGN OF THE CROSS**

Then the priest makes the sign of the cross on the baby's forehead. Parents and godparents are invited to do the same. This is a sign that the baby is welcomed into the Christian family.

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

Everyone listens to God's Word in a reading from the Gospel.

Then everyone prays for the baby, his family and everybody present. These prayers are a symbol of care. The priest calls on the saints to 'Pray for us' and will include the patron saint of the church and the saint after whom the baby is named. The prayers ask that this child will be strengthened by God's love and watched over by God at every stage of his life journey.

Then the community respond to God's Word in actions.

### **ANOINTING**

The priest makes the sign of the cross on the baby's chest with the Oil of Catechumens. This oil is a symbol of strength and is one of the oils blessed by the bishop during Holy Week.



Task: Put the 3 pictures in order and write a sentence for each, describing what is happening.

## The Celebration of the Word of God



## Welcome and Sign of the Cross



## Anointing





Answers:

# 1. Welcome and Sign of the Cross



## *Welcome and Sign of the Cross*

*The priest welcomes everyone and makes the Sign of the Cross on the child's forehead to show they are welcomed into the Christian family.*

# 2. Anointing



## *Anointing*

*The priest anoints the baby's chest with the Oil of Catechumens as a sign of strength.*

# 3. The Celebration of the Word of God



## *The Celebration of the Word of God*

*Everyone listens to God's Word in a reading from the Gospel. Together everyone prays and the priest call on the saints to 'Pray for us'. The community responds in actions.*

Date:

Friday 23rd October

Reveal Focus 3: Recognise the  
Litany of Saints.



After the readings from Scripture, the priest/deacon invites everyone to pray for the baby being baptised and then asks the Saints to pray for the baby and all his or her family and friends.

The Saints are part of the Church family which the baby is joining.

The Litany of the Saints begins like this:

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

*St Michael, Holy Angel of God pray for us.*

*St Joseph pray for us.*

*Saints Peter and Paul pray for us.*

*(Names of other Saints may be added, especially the baby's patron Saint and the patron of the Church or place).*

The litany ends with:

*All you Saints of God pray for us.*

**Say the litany together, some saying the name of the Saint, others the response.**

### The Litany of the Saints

**Name:** Holy Mary, Mother of God

**Response:** Pray for us

**Name:** St Michael, Holy Angel of God

**Response:** Pray for us

**Name:** St Joseph

**Response:** Pray for us

**Name:** Saints Peter and Paul

**Response:** Pray for us

(Names of other saints may be added, especially the baby's patron saint and the patron of the Church or place).

**All:** All you Saints of God pray for us

Which saints would you add to this list and why?  
Why is a litany a good way of praying?

*Write your own litany of Saints. Are there any special saints to your family that you would add?*