

The child is then anointed on the forehead with the Oil of Chrism. The godmother assists in wrapping the child in a white Baptismal shawl. The child's baptismal candle is lit from the large Easter Candle. This is handed to the parents with the words: "Receive the light of Christ." The priest touches the child's ears and mouth and prays that the child may soon hear God's Word and praise Him in prayer.



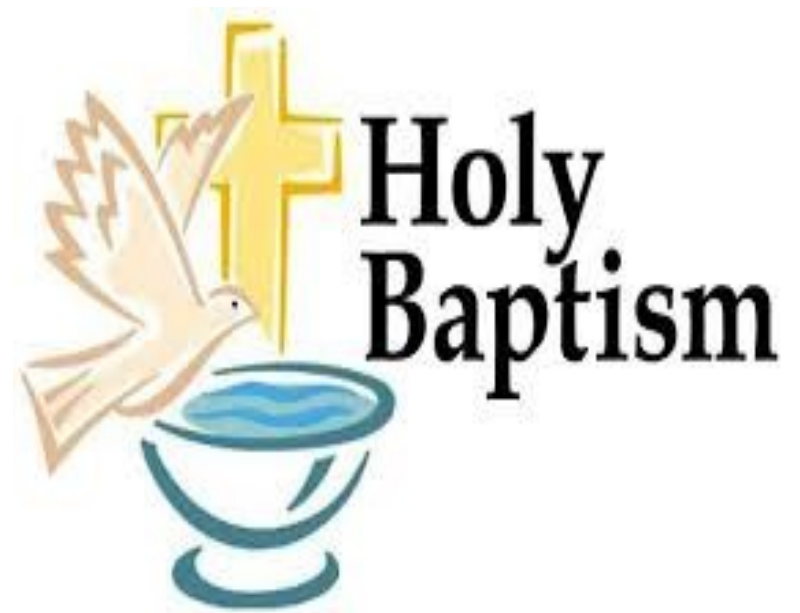
Conclusion

In the final part of the ceremony, we look forward to Confirmation, and First Holy Communion. To share in the Mass is the privilege of the baptised. These Sacraments will complete the child's entry into the believing Christian community. This part includes the saying of the great prayer of the Christian community, the Our Father. Finally, special blessings for the parents and for all present are said. Parents are reminded that they will be the first teachers of their child in the ways of faith.

Registration of Baptism

After the ceremony, the parish priest records the baptism in the Baptismal Register of the parish. This record includes the full names of the child, parents and godparents, the child's date of birth, the date of the baptism and the name of the officiating priest or deacon.

A Certificate of Baptism can then be issued by the parish as and when required.



Cathedral Place,
Limerick.

Telephone: 061-414624, Emergency No: 087-2589279,

Email: admin@stjohnscathedrallimerick.com.

www.stjohnscathedrallimerick.com

OVERVIEW OF BAPTISM

Your Baby's Baptism

Early in the Baptism ceremony the priest says "The Christian Community welcomes you with great joy." This is the core theme and meaning of the ceremony.

The Sacrament of Baptism

In the Sacraments we meet Jesus. Each day we use words and signs to communicate with one another. God communicates with us in the sacraments through words and signs. The signs used in Baptism are water, oil, white garment and light. When someone is baptised, that person is joyfully made a child of God the Father, a brother or sister of Christ, and a member of the people of God, the Church.

The Celebration of Baptism

Baptism is the first of the sacraments of initiation.

Karl Rahner once described it as "the sacramental entrance into the Church and thus into the fullness of Christian life." Its importance is highlighted in Jesus' words to his Disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Welcome



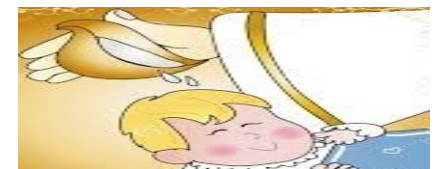
The priest greets the parents, godparents and friends who are waiting with the child.

The parents declare that they want Baptism for their child, they give the baby's name and promise that they will bring the child up in the Catholic faith and be good and practising Catholics themselves. The priest then signs the baby's forehead with the sign of the cross and invites the parents and godparents to do the same.



Word

All listen to readings from Scripture and some special prayers are said. (Ministers of the Word and/or family members may read the scriptures and prayers.) The saints are also asked to help and guide us. The priest anoints the child on the chest with the Oil of Baptism, as a sign that he/she is being set aside for a special friendship with Jesus. (Please have the top buttons undone to make it easier to anoint the child).



Water

After the water is blessed, parents and godparents and all present are asked to renew their Baptismal vows. Then the parents and godparents are invited to come around the Baptismal Font. The priest pours water on the child's head, saying: "I Baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."