

# THE BAPTISM OF CHILDREN

## The Parish of Swaythling

*The Minister reads from the Gospel:*

People brought children for Jesus to touch, and the disciples scolded them for it. But when Jesus saw this he was indignant, and said to them, 'Let the children come to me; do not try to stop them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you, whoever does not accept the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it.' And he put his arms around them, laid his hands upon them, and blessed them.

*The Minister continues:*

You hear then what Jesus said, and you see how he took children in his arms and blessed them. He is always the same. Believe, therefore, that he loves *these children*, and is pleased that you have brought *them* to be baptised. He will certainly receive *them*, make *them members* of his church, and give *them* the blessing of eternal life.

Let us thank God for this; let us pray for *these children* and for ourselves, and say together:

**Heavenly Father,**  
**In your love you have called us to know you,**  
**led us to trust you, and bound our life with**  
**yours.**  
**Surround *these children* with your love;**  
**protect *them* from evil;**  
**fill *them* with your Holy Spirit;**  
**and receive *them* into the family of your**  
**Church;**  
**that *they* may walk with us in the way of**  
**Christ,**  
**and grow in the knowledge of your love.**  
**Amen.**

### The Promises

Parents and God-parents: you have brought *these children* to baptism. Together you are at the beginning of *their* Christian journey that draws us all towards God, and there will be many stages and achievements along its way. Are you willing, by your concern and energy, your talents and vision, to support *these children*, and to provide *them* with *their* needs for this journey?

#### **We are willing.**

Those who bring children to be baptised must affirm their allegiance to Christ and their rejection of all that is evil. Therefore I ask these questions, which you must answer for yourselves and for your child or God-child.

Do you turn to Christ?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins?

**I repent of my sins.**

Do you renounce evil?

**I renounce evil.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made the world?

**I believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who redeemed humankind?

**I believe and trust in him.**

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

**I believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church:

*All say:* **This is our faith,  
we believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

### The Baptism

*The Minister stands before the water of baptism and says:*

Praise God, who made heaven and earth:

**Who keeps his promise for ever.**

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life. Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through water you led the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. In

water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ, to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son, we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit, they may be cleansed from sin and born again. Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The Minister baptises each child by pouring water over him/her and saying:*

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

#### The Sign of the Cross

*The Minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each child who has been baptised, with the words:*

I sign you with the Cross, the sign of Christ.

Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified:

*All say:* **Fight valiantly under the banner of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and continue his faithful soldier and servant to the end of your life.**

*Parents and godparents are invited to sign the candidates with the sign of the cross.*

#### The Symbol of Light

*The Minister presents a lighted candle, lit from the Easter Candle, (representing the risen Christ) and says:*

Receive this light.

This is to show that you have passed from darkness into light.

*All say:* **Shine as a light In the world, to the glory of God the Father.**

### The Welcome

*The Minister and the congregation, representing the whole Church, welcome the newly baptised:*

N., God has received you by baptism into his Church.

**We welcome you into the Lord's family.  
We are members together of the body of Christ;  
we are children of the same heavenly Father;  
we are inheritors together of the Kingdom of God.  
We welcome you!**

### The Prayers

We thank you, Father, that by your Holy Spirit *these Children* are born again and are now members of your Church.

Grant that *they* may grow in the faith in which *they* have been baptised, and that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in *them*.

We pray for *their* parents: give them the Spirit of wisdom and love, that their *homes* may reflect the joy of your eternal Kingdom: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. AMEN.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all  
evermore. **Amen.**