

Learning Objectives

To learn about what a Baptism is.

Know what happens during this special ceremony.

Know and explain why it is important to Christians.



What is a Baptism?

A baptism is a way to receive an infant or an adult into the Church and is a sign of becoming a Christian.

A person of any age can be baptised. Some churches specialise in adult baptisms or Believer's Baptisms.

What happens when a baby is baptised?



Special People



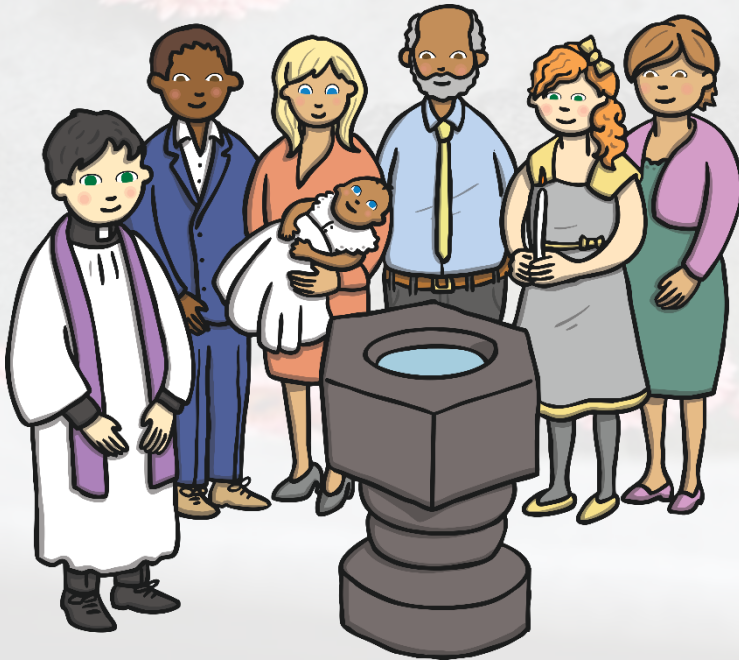
Godparents are an important part of the baptism service.

Before the baptism, the parents of the baby choose godparents to help them to look after their child.

Along with the parents of the baby at the baptism, the godparents say they believe in God then make special promises to look after the child and help him or her to grow up to be a good Christian person.

Special Objects

The baby will wear a special outfit because a baptism is a very special occasion in their life.



Photos courtesy of NCBrian, jenfagon and PhylB (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

Special Objects

The vicar pours water into the font then blesses it. The baby has some of this special water poured over their head to show that the baby is clean, pure and a new member of God's family. The vicar may use special oil to sign a cross on the baby's forehead. A candle may also be given to represent the baby being a light in God's world.

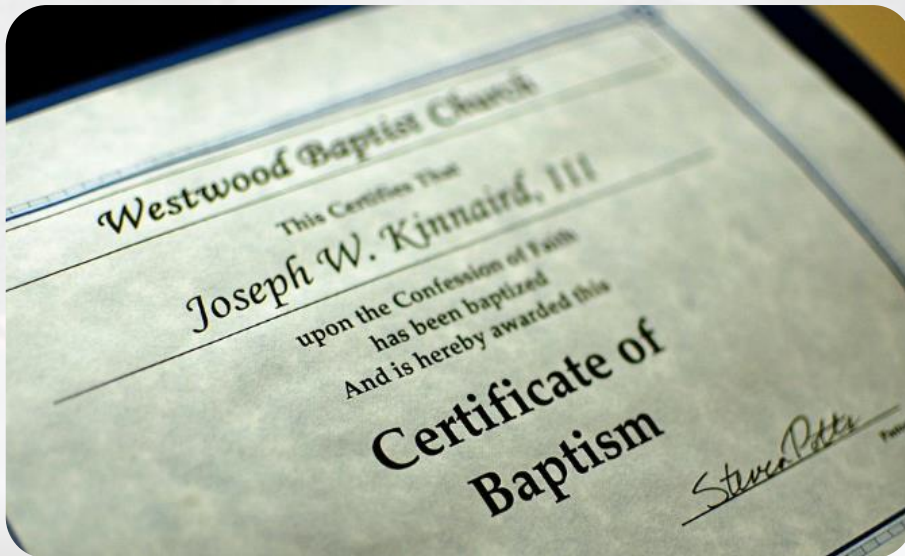
The vicar says important words as the water is poured over the baby's head.

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

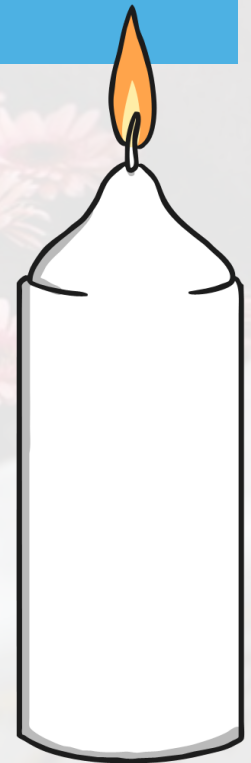


Special Objects

Once the baby has been baptised, the parents will be given a certificate to show this has happened and a candle which the baby can keep to always remind them that they are a part of God's family.



Photos courtesy of archer10 (Dennis), kkalyan and NCBrian @flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

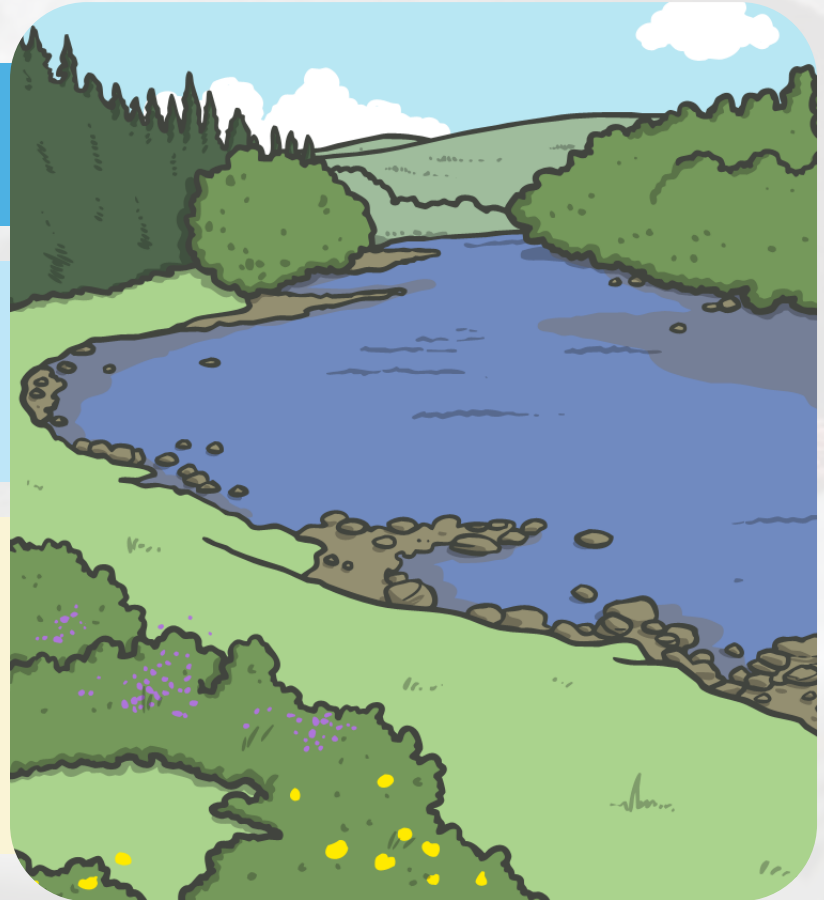


What Happens During an Adult Baptism (Believer's Baptism)?

Many adults wish to be baptised, too, as an outward sign of faith.

Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan by John the Baptist and wished his friends to baptise others.

Baptisms often used to take place in a river. New Christians were dipped under the water's surface and brought up again as a sign of a new birth.



The first part of the service will contain hymns, bible readings and a sermon (talk) by the minister.

Then the candidate and the minister enter a baptismal pool. The former is submerged for a few seconds while the minister says, "I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit".

