

Baptism Service – Castle Church

This is the baptism service that would be used at your child's baptism service. We have sent them to you so you can read them carefully and come to a decision as to whether you can stand with integrity and make these promises. Please read them together before the vicar comes to see you together. They will form the basis of much of the discussion.

NOTES

The parts in red are the words the parents and godparents would say

The parts in dark blue are the parts the whole church family would say

The parts in purple are the parts the vicar would say

The parts in green are just a few notes of explanation for you – no one says them!

The first thing that happens is the whole church family stands up and says together what they believe. As part of God's family, you must be able to answer these questions and believe them.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. From there he shall come again to judge the living and the dead.

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

In this next part the church family commit themselves to supporting you in bringing the child up in the Christian faith by prayer and encouragement.

Faith is the gift of God to his people. In baptism the Lord adds to our number those he is calling. Will you welcome *this child* and uphold *him/her* in *his/her* new life in Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

The church family have committed themselves to you and your family. Now is your opportunity to say that you are a committed member of God's family – the words say that you are promising to bring the child up in the Christian faith and that you will bring your child to church regularly.

Today the Castle Church family receives *this child* with joy. We are trusting God for *his/her* growth in faith. Will you pray for *him/her*, draw *them* into the family of God, and walk with *him/her* in the way of Christ?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism *this child* begins *his/her* journey in faith. You speak for *him/her* today. Will you care for *him/her*, and help *him/her* take *his/her* place within the life of the family of God?

With the help of God, we will.

In this next crucial part, both parents and godparents answer a series of questions. They are hard questions and you must answer honestly with complete integrity. It isn't unusual for one of the members of God's family at Castle Church to come to the microphone and ask these questions.

Do you reject the devil and all rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of sin that separates us from God and our neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth and the life?

I come to Christ.

Now you have said what you believe, have promised before God and His people that you will bring the child up in the Christian faith, we baptise the child.

Name I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Receive the sign of the cross. Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

Amen

This is a prayer that we all pray for your child as he/she begins life in his/her new Christian Family.

Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life. May God renew you by his Spirit, teach you from his Word, encourage you through his people, and fill you with love for his Son. Amen.