

# Prayers for Life

## The Sign of the Cross

+ In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

## Hail Mary

*The saints in heaven pray with us:*

Hail Mary, full of Grace,  
the Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women and  
blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners now,  
and at the hour of our death.

## The Jesus Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God,  
Have mercy on me, a sinner.

## Before a Meal

Bless, O Lord these gifts to our use  
And us in your service;  
We pray for all who are hungry today,  
And always give us thankful hearts.

## The Lord's Prayer

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 today 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  
Forever and ever  
Amen

# Baptism

## @ St. Barnabas



Baptism is a very simple service – involving prayers, anointing with oil, pouring water over the forehead and the giving of a lighted candle. The service is short, but it's a very important 'once in a lifetime' event that cannot be repeated or undone.

This booklet is here to help you think about what Baptism is all about – and make your own experience of Baptism special and meaningful.

### Baptism is all about new life.

In Baptism we celebrate new life, giving thanks for it as a gift from God. The pouring of water symbolises nurture and growth, and we pray that we might grow into the people that God wants us to be.



### Baptism is all about forgiveness.

We use water to make ourselves clean. In Baptism we acknowledge that we all sometimes make mistakes, and need God's forgiveness as we try to make things right.

### Baptism connects us with Jesus.

When we're baptised our lives are connected to Jesus in a special way that can never be broken. This is symbolised by making the sign of the cross with oil on the forehead to remember his death and resurrection. At the end of the Baptism a candle is lit from the Easter Candle, a sign that we have received his light and are called to share it in the world.



### Baptism makes us members of the Church.

Baptism not only connects us with Jesus as individuals – it makes us part of a new family with everyone else who's been baptised – that's what the Church really is. We might be very different from each other, but we are all united by the bond we have in Jesus, and because we are loved and created by God.

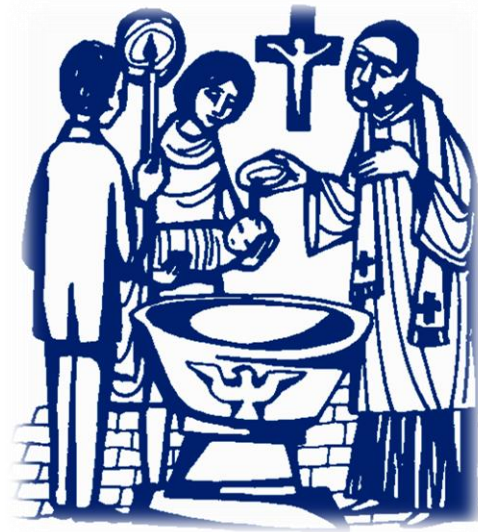




## Who can be baptised?

Anyone can be baptised in the Church of England – you cannot be too young or too old, and it's never too late. If you have been baptised before, you cannot be re-baptised, and might want to explore Confirmation.

If you do not live within the parish, you must be a regular worshipper at St Barnabas to be baptised here. **If you are a parent who has not been baptised, you might want to consider being baptised with your child.**



## What about Godparents?

When a baby or child is baptised, the parents and godparents make promises on their behalf, to follow Jesus and be part of the Church. The role of the godparent is to pray for the child and to nurture them in the faith, so that it becomes their own. Because of this role, **all godparents must be baptised**, and ideally they should also be confirmed. If the people you really want to be godparents are not baptised or confirmed, **they can also be prepared for Baptism or Confirmation.**



## How much does a Baptism cost?

There is **no fee** for a Baptism. If you are able, we ask you to make a **donation of £50+**, to contribute towards the running costs and mission of our parish.

# Baptism is for Life

Baptism is more than a special event. All of the things it is about: thanksgiving, nurture, growth and forgiveness should mark our whole lives. Baptism is more than a special event: it marks the beginning of our life, following Jesus and as part of the Church. A good way to mark the anniversary of the Baptism is to relight the Baptism candle and say the Lord's Prayer together.

## Be part of Church

It's really important to remain plugged into church. Our 9.30 Sunday Eucharist is the main place where we get together as a Christian community: for worship, for prayer, to learn. During the service Junior Church meets for children aged 4 years to 11 years old.

When you come to Church, you are encouraged to make the sign of the cross with the Holy Water by the door, as a reminder of your Baptism.



## Tell your children Bible stories.

It's important for your children to learn the Bible stories at home – you can't rely on school to teach them. The Bible itself can be quite difficult to get into, but there are some fantastic, affordable children's Bibles out there, like 'the Lion Storyteller Bible' and 'I want to know about Jesus'. They're all available online from Amazon, or can be ordered through the clergy at St. Barnabas.



## Teach your children to pray.

Prayer, talking to God, is at the very heart of the Christian life, and should feel natural. Try praying with your children as soon as they can talk. Teach them to say, 'Thank you', 'Sorry', and 'Please' prayers. Say a grace before dinner, and when they are old enough, teach them the Lord's Prayer and the Hail Mary.

Sometimes it can be easier to pray if we have something to look at or touch as we pray. You might want to light a candle, or get a picture of Jesus. Again, the clergy at St. Barnabas can advise you.



## What's Confirmation?

When a child is baptised their parents and godparents make promises for them to follow Jesus and be part of the Church. At Confirmation, you make those promises for yourself in front of the Bishop (the leader of the churches in the area), who represents the whole Church. The Bishop then lays hands on your head and prays for you to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Adults are often baptised and confirmed at the same time.