

# CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

GOD THE FATHER OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



AND WELCOMED YOU INTO HIS HOLY PEOPLE.

HAS FREED YOU FROM SIN,

GIVEN YOU A NEW BIRTH BY WATER AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

Parish Church of St Philip Neri, Mansfield

Saturday 5 September 2020



# RECEIVING THE CATECHUMENS

## OPENING DIALOGUE

*The celebrant greets the catechumens, who stand in their places, and asks the questions that follow:*

*Celebrant*     **What do you ask of God's Church?**

*C'mens*        Faith

*Celebrant*     **What does faith offer you?**

*C'mens*        Eternal life.

*Celebrant*     **This is eternal life: to know the one true God and Jesus Christ, whom he has sent. Christ has been raised from the dead and appointed by God as the Lord of life and ruler of all things, seen and unseen.**

**You would not ask for this life or seek baptism today, unless you had already come to know Christ and wanted to become his disciple. And I ask you, have you listened to Christ's word and resolved to keep his commandments? Have you shared our way of life and joined with us in prayer? Have you done all these things with the intention of becoming a Christian?**

*C'mens*        I have.

## AFFIRMATION BY THE GODPARENTS

*The celebrant questions the godparents, who stand in their places, and asks:*

*Celebrant*    **You are the godparents of the candidates. As God is your witness, do you consider them worthy to be admitted to day to the sacraments of Christian initiation?**

*Godparents*    We do.

*Celebrant*    **You have spoken in Audrey, Beauty, Mike, Motunrayo and Sam's favour. Are you prepared to help them to serve Christ by your words and example?**

*Godparents*    We are.

*Celebrant*    **Let us pray.**

**Father of mercy,  
we thank you for your servants,  
Audrey, Beauty, Mike, Motunrayo and Sam.  
You have sought and summoned them in many ways  
and they have turned to seek you.  
You have called them today  
and they have answered in the presence of the Church.  
Look favourably upon them  
and let your loving purpose be fulfilled within them.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO THE CELEBRATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

*Celebrant*    **Let us now share together at the table of God's word.**

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

## READINGS AND HOMILY

*The Mass continues with the first reading without introductory rites or collect.*

## INTERCESSIONS

*The catechumens approach the sanctuary and stand along the front of the altar steps, at 2m distance from each other.*

*Celebrant* **Let us pray for our brothers and sisters who ask for Christ's sacraments, and let us pray also for ourselves, sinners that we are, that we may all draw nearer to Christ in faith and repentance and walk untiringly in newness of life.**

*Reader* That the Lord may kindle in all of us a spirit of true repentance and a zeal for sharing his Word. Lord, in your mercy.

That we, who have died to sin and been saved by Christ through baptism, may be living proof of his grace. Lord, in your mercy.

That with trust in God's love our brothers and sisters may prepare to meet Christ their saviour. Lord, in your mercy.

That through burial with Christ in baptism they may die to sin and live always for God. Lord, in your mercy.

That by the power of the Holy Spirit they may be guided along the paths of holiness. Lord, in your mercy.

That on the day of judgement they may come before the Father bearing fruits of holiness and love. Lord, in your mercy.

That the entire world, for which the Father gave his beloved Son, may believe in his love and turn to him. Lord, in your mercy.

## EXORCISM AND ANOINTING WITH OIL OF CATECHUMENS

*The celebrant concludes the intercessions with the following prayer.*

*Celebrant*     **Father of mercies,  
you sent your only Son  
to rescue us from the slavery of sin  
and to give us freedom as your children.**

**We pray for your servants  
Audrey, Beauty, Mike, Motunrayo and Sam;  
They have faced the temptations of this world  
and been tested by the cunning of Satan;  
now they acknowledge their sinfulness  
and profess their faith.**

**By the passion and resurrection of your Son  
deliver them from the powers of darkness  
and strengthen them through the grace of Christ,  
that they may journey through life,  
shielded by your unfailing love.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The celebrant then says the following prayer for each Catechumen and anoints them with the Oil of Catechumens on both hands, using a cotton bud.*

*Celebrant*     **We anoint you with the oil of salvation  
in the name of Christ our Saviour.  
May he strengthen you with his power,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.**

*C'men*             Amen.

*The catechumens return to their places having been anointed.*

# BAPTISMAL LITURGY

## LITANY OF THE SAINTS

*Celebrant* Dear friends, let us pray to almighty God for our brothers and sisters, who are asking for baptism. He has called them and brought them to this moment; may he grant them light and strength to follow Christ with a resolute heart and to profess the faith of the Church. May he give them the new life of the Holy Spirit, whom we are about to call down on this water.

*The litany of the saints is sung, due to government advice please do not join in the responses.*

*Celebrant* Almighty ever-living God,  
be present by the mysteries of your great love  
and send forth the spirit of adoption  
to create the new peoples  
brought to birth for you in the font of Baptism,  
so that what is to be carried out by our humble service  
may be brought to fulfilment by your mighty power.  
Through Christ our Lord.

*All* Amen.

## BLESSING OF THE BAPTISMAL WATER

*The Celebrant then pauses in silence for a few moments before blesses the baptismal water, saying the following prayer with hands extended:*

*Celebrant* O God, who by invisible power  
accomplish a wondrous effect  
through sacramental signs  
and who in many ways have prepared water, your creation,  
to show forth the grace of Baptism;

O God, whose Spirit  
in the first moments of the world's creation  
hovered over the waters,  
so that the very substance of water  
would even then take to itself the power to sanctify;

O God, who by the outpouring of the flood  
foreshadowed regeneration,  
so that from the mystery of one and the same element of water  
would come an end to vice and a beginning of virtue;  
O God, who caused the children of Abraham  
to pass dry-shod through the Red Sea,  
so that the chosen people,  
set free from slavery to Pharaoh,  
would prefigure the people of the baptised;

O God, whose Son,  
baptised by John in the waters of the Jordan,  
was anointed with the Holy Spirit,  
and, as he hung on the Cross,  
gave forth water from his side along with blood,  
and after his Resurrection, commanded his disciples:  
'Go forth, teach all nations, baptising them  
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy  
Spirit',

look now, we pray, upon the face of your Church  
and graciously unseal for her the fountain of Baptism.  
May this water receive by the Holy Spirit  
the grace of your Only Begotten Son,  
so that human nature, created in your image,  
and washed clean through the Sacrament of Baptism  
from all the squalor of the life of old,  
may be found worthy to rise to the life of newborn children  
through water and the Holy Spirit.

May the power of the Holy Spirit,  
O Lord, we pray,  
come down through your Son,  
into the fullness of this font,  
so that all who have been buried with Christ,  
by Baptism into death  
may rise again to life with him.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

*All*

## CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

*The Catechumens now come forward to stand socially distanced along the front of the sanctuary steps again.*

*Celebrant*     **Now I ask you to renounce sin and profess your faith in almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in whose life you will soon share by the waters of Baptism.**

*Celebrant*     **Do you renounce sin,  
so as to live in the freedom of the children of God?**

*C'mens*        I do.

*Celebrant*     **Do you renounce the lure of evil,  
so that sin may have no mastery over you?**

*C'mens*        I do.

*Celebrant*     **Do you renounce Satan, the author and prince of sin?**

*C'mens*        I do.

*Then celebrant then invites each catechumen to the font in turn, with their godparent standing nearby, and leads them in the profession of the faith and baptises them.*

*Celebrant*     **Do you believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth?**

*C'men*         I do.

*Celebrant*     **Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered death and was buried,  
rose again from the dead,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father?**

*C'men*         I do.

*Celebrant*     **Do you believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Catholic Church,  
the communion of the saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting?**

*C'men*         I do.

*The Celebrant then baptises the catechumen.*

*Celebrant*     **N., I BAPTISE YOU IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER,  
AND OF THE SON,  
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

*Once baptised the newly baptised return to their places.*

## RECEIVING OF THE BAPTISMAL SYMBOLS

*The Celebrant then says the following formulary for the clothing with a baptismal garment. This garment should be white in colour. At the words 'Receive this baptismal garment', the newly baptised dons the baptismal garment.*

*Celebrant*     **My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,  
you have become a new creation  
and have clothed yourselves in Christ.  
Receive this baptismal garment  
and bring it unstained  
to the judgment seat of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
so that you may have eternal life.**

*Neophytes*     Amen.

*The Celebrant lights a taper from the Paschal Candle and then passes the flame to the neophytes, each holding their unlit baptismal candles, saying:*

*Celebrant*     **You have been enlightened by Christ.  
Walk always as children of the light  
and keep the flame of faith alive in your hearts.  
When the Lord comes, may you go out to meet him  
with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.**

*Neophytes*     Amen.

## CELEBRATION OF CONFIRMATION

*The candidates for Confirmation now come forward to stand socially distanced along the front of the sanctuary steps.*

*Celebrant*     **My dear friends, by your Baptism you have been born again in Christ and you have become members of Christ and of his priestly people. Now you are to share in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit among us, the Spirit sent by the Lord upon the Apostles at Pentecost and given by them and their successors to the baptised.**

**The promised strength of the Holy Spirit, which you are to receive, will make you more like Christ and help you to be a witness to his suffering, Death and Resurrection. It will strengthen you to be an active member of the Church and to build up the mystical body of Christ in faith, hope and love.**

*Then the Celebrant addresses the congregation:*

*Celebrant*     **Dearly beloved,  
let us pray to God the almighty Father,  
for these, his adopted children,  
already born again to eternal life in Baptism,  
that he will graciously pour out the Holy Spirit upon them  
to confirm them with his abundant gifts,  
and through his anointing  
conform them more fully to Christ, the Son of God.**

*The candidates for Confirmation kneel with their sponsor standing distanced behind them while the celebrant, with his hands extended toward the candidates, says the following prayer:*

*Celebrant*     **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who brought these your servants to new birth  
by water and the Holy Spirit,  
freeing them from sin:  
send upon them, O Lord, the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete;  
give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and fortitude,  
the spirit of knowledge and piety;  
fill them with the spirit of the fear of the Lord.  
Through Christ our Lord.**

*All*             **Amen.**

*The candidates now stand where they have been kneeling and the celebrant, taking the Sacred Chrism, comes to them. The Celebrant dips his right thumb in the Sacred Chrism and makes the Sign of the Cross with the Sacred Chrism on the forehead of the candidate:*

*Celebrant*     **N., BE SEALED WITH THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

*Confirmed*    Amen.

*Celebrant*     **Peace be with you.**

*Confirmed*    And with your spirit.

*The Mass now continues as normal. Holy Communion is distributed at its proper time, the newly baptised receiving Holy Communion first.*