

**HOLY BAPTISM
ST MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS,
BEACONSFIELD**



Welcome and introduction to the service.

PREPARATION

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all **All and also with you.**

A prayer to gather us ready for the service

Heavenly Father,
by the power of your Holy Spirit you give to all your faithful people new life in the water of baptism. Guide and strengthen us by the same Spirit, that we who are born again may serve you in faith and love, and grow into the full stature of your Son, Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit now and for ever.

All Amen.

BIBLE READING

Minister says to all present:

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me. Do not stop them". We thank God for N who have come to be baptized today. Christ loves them and welcomes them into his Church.

So I ask you all:

Will you support these children as they begin their journey of faith?

All We will.

Will you help them to live and grow within God's family?

All We will.

The minister then says to the parents and godparents:

God knows each of us by name and we are his. Parents and godparents, you speak for N today. Will you pray for them, and help them to follow Christ?

We will.

THE DECISION

Parents and Godparents come to stand with the minister

We all wander far from God and lose our way: Christ comes to find us and welcomes us home. In baptism we respond to his call. Therefore I ask:

Do you turn away from sin?	I do
Do you reject evil?	I do
Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?	I do.
Do you trust in him as Lord?	I do.

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS - *the sign of the cross is made*

N. Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of the cross.

the parents and Godparents may sign the child with the cross.

Do not be ashamed of Christ. You are his for ever.

All: Stand bravely with him against all the powers of evil and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness, and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. **All: Amen**

PRAYER OVER THE WATER

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

All Who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

We praise you, loving Father, for the gift of your Son Jesus. He was baptized in the River Jordan, where your Spirit came upon him and revealed him as the Son you love. He sent his followers to baptize all who turn to him. Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water that those who are baptized in it may be cleansed in the water of life, and, filled with your spirit, may know that they are loved as your children, safe in Christ for ever. **All Amen**

PROFESSION OF FAITH All stand

Let us affirm, together with these who are being baptized, our common faith in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of all being and life, the one for whom we exist?

All I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

All I believe and trust in him.

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

All I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church

All This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

THE BAPTISM *The priest baptizes each child saying*

N, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All Amen.

May God, who has received you by baptism into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in glory.

All Amen.

THE COMMISSION *Prayers are said for the child (Children)*

We now pray for ourselves saying:

**God of grace and life,
in your love you have given us all
a place among your people;
keep us faithful to our own baptism,
and prepare us for that glorious day when the
whole creation will be made perfect
in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

**All: Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever.
Amen**

THE WELCOME

The Priest and congregation representing the whole Church welcome the newly baptized.

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:
N. by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.
We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;
We are children of the same heavenly Father;
We welcome you.

GIVING OF A LIGHTED CANDLE

N. You have received the light of Christ,
walk in this light all the days of your life
**All Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the
Father.**

SENDING OUT

The God of all grace,
who called you to his eternal glory in Christ Jesus,
establish, strengthen and settle you in the faith;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Go in the light and peace of Christ.
All Thanks be to God.



Baptism marks the beginning of a journey with God that continues for the rest of our lives, the first step in response to God's love. At this joyful time, those to be baptized, together with parents, godparents, sponsors and friends, are welcomed by this community of St Michael and All Angels, who promise support and prayer for the future. At this service today we may have opportunity to remember our own baptism and to reflect on our journey, which is now to be shared with this new member of the Church.

The service paints many vivid pictures of what happens on the Christian way. There is the sign of the cross, the badge of faith in the Christian journey, which reminds us of Christ's death for us. Our 'drowning' in the water of baptism, (where we believe we die to sin and are raised to new life), unites us to Christ's dying and rising, a picture that can be brought home vividly by the way the baptism is administered. Water is also a sign of new life, as we are born again by water and the Spirit, as Jesus was at his baptism. And as a sign of that new life, there is a lighted candle, a picture of the light of Christ conquering the darkness of evil. Everyone who is baptized walks in that light for the rest of their lives.

As we pray for those being baptized today, we picture them, with the whole Church throughout the ages, journeying into the fullness of God's love.

Jesus said, 'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.'
John 10.10

