

Background Notes for Parents

About the Theme

Baptism is a sacrament. A sacrament is something that uses signs – usually a combination of words and actions. The signs are not just words and actions that have a message for those who are celebrating it; they give those who receive them a gift. This gift (which Catholics call ‘grace’), is given by Jesus whom they meet in the Sacrament, to deepen and develop their relationship with him. Through the sacraments God helps Catholics grow in friendship with him. The Catholic Church has declared that there are 7 sacraments which celebrate special events in the lives of Catholics: Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist, Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage and Holy orders.

Baptism is an invitation to join the Church family. When a baby or younger child is baptised, the parents accept the invitation on behalf of their child. Older children and adults accept the invitation themselves. Often adults are baptised at Easter. Baptism is a special time for the person who is to be baptised, for their family and friends and the parish community.

Sometimes the sacrament of Baptism is celebrated when the parish family is gathered together for Mass. At other times family and friends come together in church at another time.

This is a outline of the rite of Baptism:

The welcome and signing with the sign of the cross.

Listening to Gods Word

Anointing with the oil of catechumens

Blessing of or thanksgiving over the baptismal water

Baptismal Promises

Baptism

Anointing with chrism

Presentation of the white garment

Presentation of the lighted candle

Nursery and Reception

For children in Nursery and Reception, the focus is very much on how we welcome a new baby into any family and then how a baby is welcomed into the family of God.

Throughout the topic there are opportunities for you to help your child make the sign of the cross, to pray and to listen to how much God loves them. Your child will enjoy role playing some of the signs and symbols which take place during a baptism in a Catholic church.

Overview

Key Vocabulary	<u>EARLY YEARS</u> Belonging: Welcome BAPTISM/CONFIRMATION THEME
welcome Baptism baptise water candle “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen” priest white garment godparents font Sign of the cross	<p>The sacraments are actions and signs, which deepen communion with God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. At Baptism, the church invites and welcomes the person into the church family. The Sacrament of Baptism is the basis of all Christian life.</p> <p>Children will know and understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What it is to welcome and be welcomed – Explore• Baptism: a welcome to God’s family – Reveal <p>See Background Notes for Parents</p> <p>Week 1: Share a story about being welcomed. Role play with your child how to welcome someone . How were you welcomed into school? Make a ‘welcome banner’ to hang up in your home.</p> <p>Week 2: Share the ways that the children in the picture are children of God. (see below) Can they draw themselves into the picture?</p> <p>Week 3: Show your child the picture for Week 3. Talk about how we welcome a new baby into God’s family through Baptism. Read the story about Matthew’s Baptism. If they have a doll – let them role play baptising the doll.</p> <p>Week 4: Look at the key vocabulary for this topic and use it to remember all that your child has learned about Baptism and how we welcome a baby into God’s family through baptism. Celebrate with a simple Act of Worship.</p>

Early Years

In **EYFS** the foundations for understanding the Sacrament of Baptism are laid. They are helped to understand different ways of welcoming people and that Baptism is a welcome into God's family.

Week 1: Share pictures with your child of themselves when they were a baby and how everyone celebrated when they were welcomed into your family (maybe gifts that they received) Show your child the pictures from Church's Story (see below)

- Who is in the picture?
- What is happening in the picture?
- What can you see?
- Why are there balloons and a cake?

Share ways in which the children are being welcomed into school. Share signs with of welcome with your child: e.g. Handshakes, hugs e.t.c.

Week 2: Show your child the picture from God's Story (see below). Talk to him/her about the ways that the children in the picture are children of God. Can they draw themselves into the picture?

Week 3: Show your child the picture for Week 3. Talk about how we welcome a new baby into God's family through Baptism. Read the story about Matthew's Baptism. Talk about what happens at Baptism focusing on the water, the candle and the white garment. Notice who is with the baby (family, godparents, priest) Help your child to make the sign of the cross (if appropriate).

- Why were the family going to church?
- What did Father Devine say?
- Why did they celebrate Matthew's special day?
- How did they celebrate Matthew's special day?

Say the words underneath the picture inserting your child's name. If they have a doll let them role play baptising the doll.

Week 4: Look at the key vocabulary for this topic and use it to remember all that your child has learned about Baptism and how we welcome a baby into God's family through baptism. Celebrate with a simple Act of Worship.

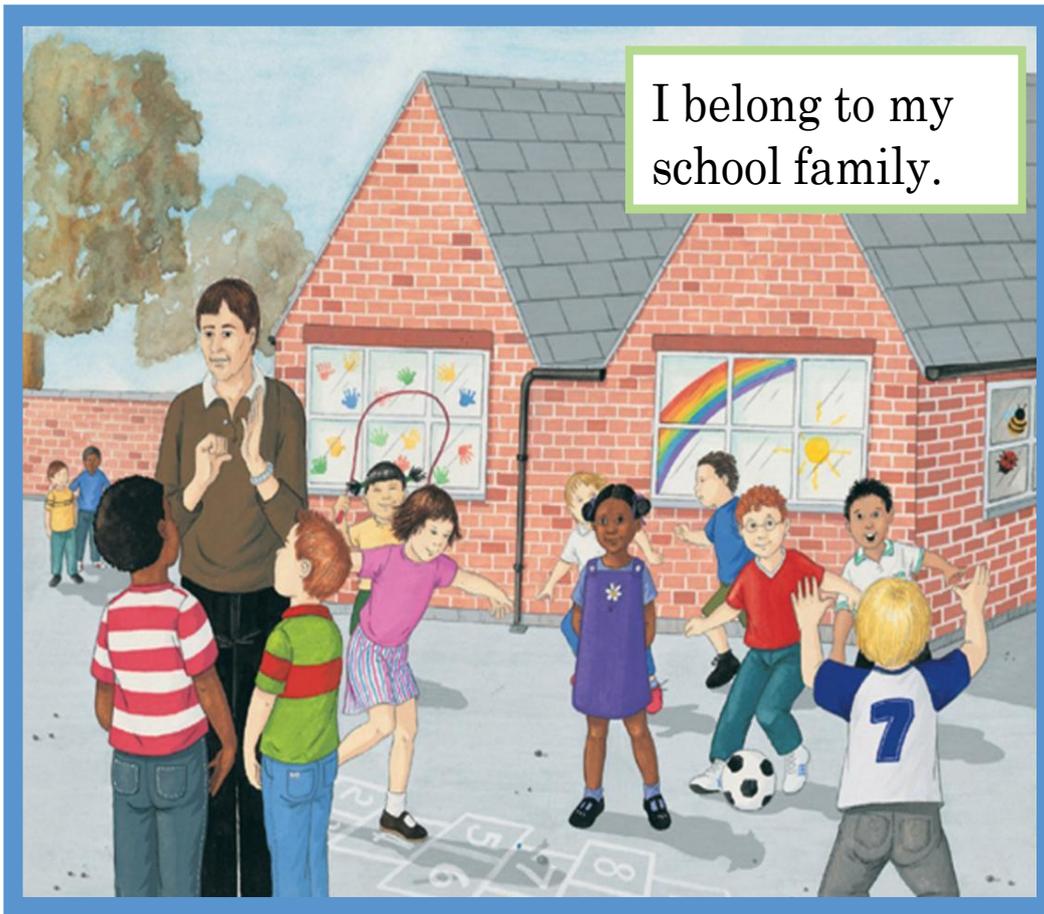
Week 1:



Here is a family welcoming a new baby. Everyone is happy.

Week 1

I belong to my school family.

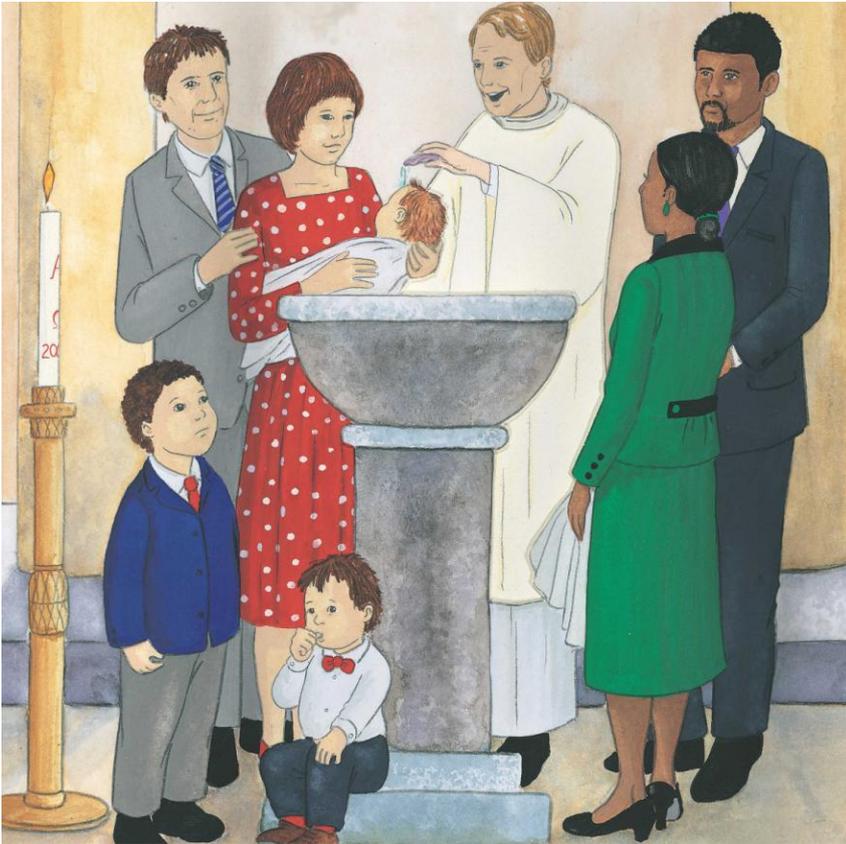


Week 2



You are the children of God. He loves you

Week 3



Philip's mum, dad and little brother, Tom went to church with baby Matthew. It was baby Matthew's Baptism. Auntie Sarah and Uncle Dave were going to be Matthew's godparents. Godparents are people who promise to help parents to teach the baby all about Jesus and how to be his friend. Father Devine welcomed them to church and asked them, "What name have you given your child?" Mum and dad answered, "Matthew."

The family gathered round the baptismal font and watched Father Devine pick up a little shell and dip it into the water. Mum held Matthew over the font and Father Devine poured water over Matthew's head saying, "Matthew, I baptise you, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Auntie Sarah put a white shawl around Matthew and Father Devine said, "Receive this white garment."

After church all the family gathered together for a party to celebrate Matthew's baptism – his welcome into God's family.

“ _____ I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

Act of worship

“Baptism – a welcome to the family of the Church”

You might like to begin by setting up a little prayer area with a picture of your child as a baby or his/her baptism if you have one. Any symbols of Baptism e.g. doll, white garment, bowl, of water, candle, cross and Bible,



Say: Now as we light the candle let us really smile at each other and remind ourselves that Jesus is with us... he wants to welcome us being with him..

The Word

We are going to try to listen to what God has to say to us.. This reading tells us how to help everyone feel welcome because we are all God's people. We are all God's children and part of God's family.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians

“You are God's people.
God loves you.
You are all different but the important thing is that
you are God's children.

Response to the Word

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God



Just sit and think quietly for a moment... we are God's children
children..... God loves us.....

Now look at the table with the photos of some of you as babies dressed in a white garment (dress) when you were baptised.

At Baptism Christians are signed with the sign of the cross on the forehead and baptised with water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. They are wrapped in a white garment and parents are given a special candle... All these are signs that they belong to the Church family.

Going Forth

Let us make the sign of the cross together.