

action is associated with appointing a person to an important work or position. The baby is anointed with this perfumed oil called Chrism because all the baptised are appointed and anointed to represent Christ and carry on his work in the world.

The white garment This garment (usually a shawl) is a relic from the time when the newly baptised Christians wore special clothes in the first few weeks after Baptism. White suggests innocence and sinlessness, qualities of life expected from a Christian.

#### The Light from the Baptismal Candle



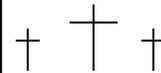
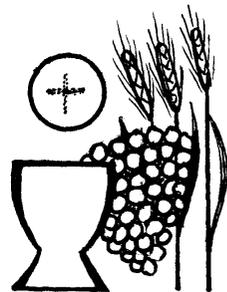
Candles symbolise Christ, the Light of the World. The Baptismal candle reminds us that the light of Christ has entered the child's life and its flame symbolises the flame of faith which, with the help and support of the parents and God-parents, will burn throughout the child's life.

#### 7. GROWTH IN THE FAITH CONTINUES AFTER BAPTISM

The Baptismal ceremony is quite short but the education/growth of the baptised ought to go on until the child matures fully. This is done in the home by the parents and God-parents

#### How will the parents and godparents grow in faith and help their child grow in faith?

- taking part in parish life
- celebrating Mass on Sundays
- being a good neighbour
- helping others
- collaborating with fellow workers



ST. BRIDE'S PARISH BOTHWELL



#### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

*Why do you wish to have your baby baptised?*

#### 1. BAPTISM GIVES LIFE

The life that baptism gives is not the life we have received from our parents, but is supernatural life, divine life, a sharing in the very life of God. Our first parents Adam and Eve shared in this life, but lost this life by their sin of disobedience.

#### 2. BAPTISM RESTORES LIFE

God did not abandon the human race but promised to send a saviour, a redeemer that he might restore this life in us., Christ tells us "*I have come that you might have life and have it to the full.*" (John 10:10). In order to restore this divine life, Christ instituted the Sacrament of Baptism.

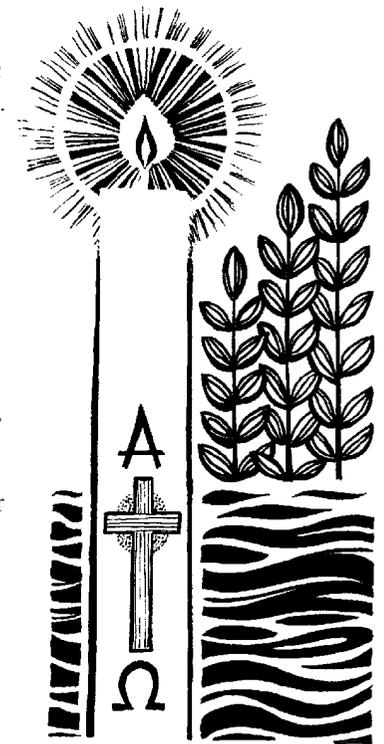
The sacraments are sensible signs, instituted by Christ to signify and communicate grace.

*In baptism, the visible sign is water.*

*Why?*

Water is necessary for life, it gives life and maintains life, a seed needs water to germinate, to grow, to produce fruit.

Without water everything dies: crops, trees, animals, people. As with seed, faith, born in the water of baptism, goes on to grow and then produce fruit..



### 3. BAPTISM IS THE REBIRTH OF THE LIFE OF GRACE

In baptism we receive spiritual life. We are reborn. Christ says *He who is not born of water and the Spirit cannot enter the Kingdom of God.* (John 3:5)

Baptism makes us:

- Sons and daughters of God
- Brothers and sisters of Christ
- Brothers and sisters of each other
- Members of the family of God
- Members of the Church
- Temples of the Holy Spirit
- Incorporates us into the Body of Christ

Saint Paul speaks of this incorporation into Christ: *"You are the Body of Christ and each one in particular is a part of this body"* (1. Cor: 12, 27).

Christ himself spoke saying: *"I am the true vine and you are the branches. If anyone remains in me, and I in him, he will produce much fruit, but without me you can do nothing."* (John 15: 5)

### 4. BAPTISM IS THE BASIS OF A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY



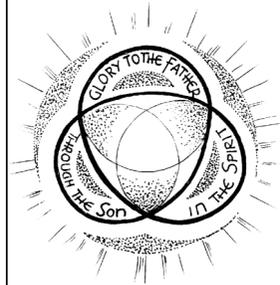
Baptism makes us adopted children of God and brothers and sisters of Christ. If all the baptised are brothers and sisters of Christ, it follows that we are also brothers and sisters of one another. Once convinced of this truth, we are capable of forming a community which is truly Christian because we acknowledge the fact that we are brothers and sisters. We are all members of the family of God and we ought to love one another. As Christ tells us, *"Love one another as I have loved you."* (John 15: 12).

### 5. BAPTISMAL PROMISES AND THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

Before baptism, the parents and godparents, in the name of the baptised, make their promises and the profession of faith.

They promise:

- to renounce sin
- to renounce all the seductions of evil
- to renounce all that is evil



They affirm their faith:

- in God the Father Almighty
- in Jesus Christ our Saviour
- in the Holy Spirit
- in the Catholic Church
- in the Sacraments
- in Eternal Life

At the moment of making these promises and the profession of faith in the name of the baptised, it is important that the parents and godparents renew together their baptismal promises. On presenting their child for baptism they are accepting the obligation to educate the child in that same faith.

### 6. SYMBOLS WHICH WE USE IN BAPTISM

The Cross traced on the Forehead A slave used to be branded with his master's sign to show whose property he was. When the child is signed with the sign of the cross, it is a symbol that he/she now belongs to Christ.



Anointing with Oil of Catechumens A catechumen is someone who is preparing for Baptism. This oil is a sign of strength and of healing. In the past oil was poured into wounds to ease pain and even today we still use oil as an important ingredient in ointments. Gladiators often massaged themselves with oil to make their muscles supple and strong in preparation for the fight ahead. The oil of Catechumens smeared on the baby's breast is a sign of the strength of Christ which will be with the child in the struggle against evil in their life.

#### Water

Water is the visible sign from which the newly baptised begins a new life which wipes out original sin from the soul and any other sins which the person may have committed.

Anointing with Oil of Chrism The child is anointed on the crown of the head with Oil of Chrism. The name Christ means the anointed one, so Christians are the anointed ones. From the Old Testament we know that God's special representatives (priests, prophets and kings) were all anointed with this Chrism oil because of their special calling. This