

GENERAL SYNOD 2003

**BILL NO 3
SCHEDULE**

**Holy Baptism
in the context of Morning or Evening Prayer**

Holy Baptism in the context of Morning or Evening Prayer

The presiding minister may say:

Our Lord Jesus Christ has told us
that to enter the kingdom of heaven
we must be born again of water and the Spirit,
and has given us baptism as the sign and seal of this new birth.
Here we are washed by the Holy Spirit and made clean.
Here we are clothed with Christ,
dying to sin that we may live his risen life.
As children of God, we have a new dignity
and God calls us to fullness of life.

At the baptism of an infant the following may be added:

Holy Baptism is administered to infants
on the understanding that they will be brought up in the fellowship of Christ's Church;
that they will be taught the Christian faith;
and that, when they have publicly confessed this faith,
they will be confirmed by the bishop and admitted to the Holy Communion.

THE PRESENTATION

The presiding minister invites the candidates and their sponsors to stand in view of the congregation.

The presiding minister invites the sponsors of baptismal candidates to present the candidates.

We welcome *those* who come(s) to be baptized. I invite their sponsors to present *them* now.

The sponsors answer

We present . . . to be baptized

The presiding minister says to the sponsors of those unable to answer for themselves

Parents and godparents, will you accept the responsibilities placed upon you in bringing . . . for baptism and answer on *their* behalf. By your own prayers and example, by your teaching and love, will you encourage *them* in the life and faith of the Christian community?

With the help of God, we will.

In baptism *these children* begin their journey in faith.

You speak for *them* today.

Will you care for *them*,

and help *them* to take *their* place

within the life and worship of Christ's Church?

With the help of God, we will.

THE DECISION

At this point testimony may be given by one or more of the candidates.

The presiding minister says to the candidates able to answer for themselves, and to the sponsors of other candidates

In baptism, God calls us from darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you reject the devil and all proud rebellion against God?

I reject them.

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

I renounce them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate us from God and neighbour?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

I turn to Christ.

Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

I submit to Christ.

Do you come to Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life?

I come to Christ.

The presiding minister says to the congregation

You have heard these our brothers and sisters respond to Christ.

Will you support them in this calling?

The congregation answers

We will support them.

The presiding minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate for baptism, either here or after the baptism with water.

A hymn may be sung.

THE BAPTISM

The presiding minister and the candidates go to the place where the water for baptism is.

The presiding minister begins the thanksgiving prayer.

Water is poured into the font.

Praise God who made heaven and earth.

Who keeps his promise for ever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The presiding minister continues with either

We give you thanks that at the beginning of creation your Holy Spirit moved upon the waters to bring forth light and life.

With water you cleanse and replenish the earth; you nourish and sustain all living things.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery into freedom, and brought them through the river Jordan to new life in the land of promise.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks for your Son Jesus Christ: for his baptism by John, for his anointing with the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks that through the deep waters of death Jesus delivered us from our sins and was raised to new life in triumph.

Thanks be to God.

We give you thanks for the grace of the Holy Spirit who forms us in the likeness of Christ and leads us to proclaim your Kingdom.

Thanks be to God.

And now we give you thanks that you have called *names / these your servants* to new birth in your Church through the waters of baptism.

Pour out your Holy Spirit in blessing and sanctify this water

so that those who are baptized in it may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection.

May they die to sin, rise to newness of life, and continue for ever in Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we give you praise and honour in the unity of the Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

or

We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.

Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation.

Through water you led the children of Israel

from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land.

In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John

and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah, the Christ,

to lead us from the death of sin to newness of life.

We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.

In it we are buried with Christ in his death.

By it we share in his resurrection.

Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son,

we baptize into his fellowship those who come to him in faith.

Now sanctify this water that, by the power of your Holy Spirit,

they may be cleansed from sin and born again.

Renewed in your image, may they walk by the light of faith

and continue for ever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord;

to whom with you and the Holy Spirit

be all honour and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The presiding minister shall ask the following question of each candidate for baptism, or, in the case of those unable to answer for themselves, the sponsors of each candidate:

Do you believe and accept the Christian faith into which you are (... *is*) to be baptized?

I do.

The presiding minister addresses the congregation:

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess, together with *these candidates* the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Son?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father;
he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The presiding minister baptizes by dipping the candidates in the water, or by pouring water over them, saying

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

The minister and those who have been baptized may return from the font.

Unless those who have been baptized were signed with the cross immediately after the Decision, they are signed now, with the following words:

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

The presiding minister may invite parents, godparents and sponsors to sign the newly baptized with the cross. When all the candidates have been signed, the minister says

Live as *disciples* of Christ,
fight the good fight,
finish the race, keep the faith.
**Confess Christ crucified,
proclaim his resurrection,
look for his coming in glory.**

The minister continues

God has called you into his Church.

The congregation joins the minister, saying

**We therefore receive and welcome you
as *members* with us of the body of Christ,
as *the children* of the one heavenly Father,
and as *inheritors* of the kingdom of God.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The following prayer is said:

Father, we thank you that ... *have* now been born again of water and the Holy Spirit, and *have* become your own *children* by adoption, and *members* of your Church.
Grant that *they* may grow in the faith in which *they have* been baptized;
Grant that *they themselves* may confess it when *they come* to be confirmed;
Grant that *they* may bear witness to it by a life of service to others;
And that all things belonging to the Spirit may live and grow in *them*;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

At the baptism of infants this, or another prayer for the family, may be used:

Almighty God, bless the home(s) of *these children*,
and give such grace and wisdom to all who have the care of *them*,
that by their word and good example
they may teach *them* to know and love you,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Other prayers for the community of the baptized and for God's mission in the world may be said concluding with

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

and

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The presiding minister says

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, so we pray

Our Father in heaven

or

As Jesus has taught us we are bold to say

Our Father, who art in heaven

GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE

The presiding minister may say the seasonal blessing or another suitable blessing or

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

The newly baptized may be sent out with these words.

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and has given us a place with the saints in light.

You have received the light of Christ;
walk in this light all the days of your life.

**Shine as a light in the world
to the glory of God the Father.**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord:
In the name of Christ. Amen.

The presiding minister or another person may give each of the newly baptized a lighted candle. This may happen during GOING OUT AS GOD'S PEOPLE before the words "God has delivered us..."

When Holy Baptism takes place during Morning or Evening Prayer, the sermon follows the Third Canticle, and the Baptismal Rite follows the sermon. The rest of Morning or Evening Prayer is omitted.