

DIOCESE OF FERNS

A Celebration
of
Baptism



CALLED BY NAME • CHOSEN IN LOVE



Record of Baptism

Child's Name: _____

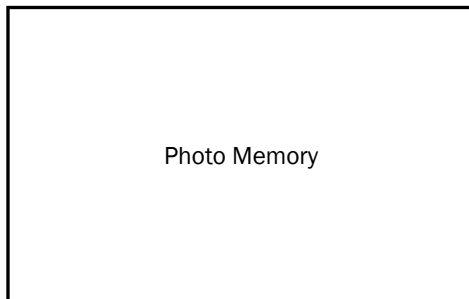
Date of Baptism: _____

Place of Baptism: _____

Parents: _____

Godparents: _____

Priest: _____



"Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him"

What Is Baptism?

Baptism marks the beginning of a new chapter in your child's life.

Baptism is a gift, and it is also a calling. It is God's loving grace at work in your child's life. It is also an invitation to grow in faith, to learn to love as Christ loves, and to live as part of His Church.

Today your child is welcomed into a community that stretches far beyond this church and community - across the Diocese of Ferns, throughout Ireland, and around the world.

The local Christian Community, the Baptism Team and the priests of our parish welcome you to this celebration of Baptism.

A special welcome to Parents, Godparents, relatives and friends of your child who is to be baptised today.

In celebrating Baptism, you, as parents and godparents, and all of us in this community, take on a very important commitment: we promise to nurture the faith of these children by word and good example. We also promise to try to make our society more just and caring so that these children baptised today may receive the loving example and support they need to grow as good Christians.

The Rite of Baptism is a rich tapestry of signs and symbols:

- Words with gestures
- Water
- Oil
- White Garment
- Lighted candle (this could be lit briefly in your home on the anniversary of your child's Baptism and kept for future sacraments)

We invite you to join with us in prayer and ask that you watch and listen carefully so that these symbols will come alive for you too at this celebration.

Overview of the Rite of Baptism



WELCOME

WELCOME

Receiving the Child for Baptism
(Greeting at door)
Accepting Responsibility
Naming of the Child
Signing of the Child with the Cross

LISTEN

Liturgy of the Word
Readings
Gospel
Homily
Prayers of the Faithful
Litany of the Saints



LISTEN



PREPARE

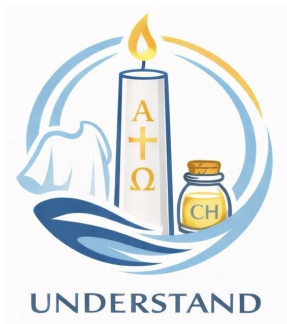
PREPARE

Preparatory Rites
Prayer of Protection
Anointing before Baptism

CELEBRATE

Celebration of Baptism

Invitation to Prayer
Profession of Faith
- Renunciation of Sin
- Profession of Faith
Baptism



UNDERSTAND

Symbolic Rites

Anointing after Baptism
Clothing with White Garment
Lighting the Baptismal Candle
Prayer over the ears and mouth

BLESS

Concluding Rite

The Lord's Prayer
Blessings



WELCOME

Receiving the Child for Baptism



WELCOME

Accepting Responsibility

*Parents are asked to accept responsibility for handing on their faith to their child.
With the Sign of the cross, the child is welcomed into the family of the Church.*

Celebrant: Your child is called by name.
What names do you give this child / these children

Parents: **N.N. (Names of Child)**

Celebrant: What do you ask of God's Church today for N.N.

Parents: **Baptism**

Celebrant: You have asked to have these children baptised. In doing so you accept the responsibility of nurturing your child in faith and are accepting the responsibility of teaching them to live out the faith. It will be your duty to bring them up to keep God's commandment as Christ has taught us. Do you clearly understand what you are undertaking?

Parents: **We do.**

Celebrant: Godparents, are you ready to help the parents of these children in their duty as Christian parents?

Godparents: **We are.**

Celebrant: And do you, all of you here, promise to offer these parents and their children the support of a community of love and true concern.

All: **We do.**

Celebrant: The Christian Community welcomes these children with great joy. In its name I claim them for Christ our Saviour by the sign of his Cross, which is traced on your child's forehead as the sign of Christ's love and belonging.

I now invite their parents and God-parents to do the same.

LISTEN

Liturgy of the Word



We listen to the Word of God which reminds us that we are children of light, called to follow Christ in our daily lives.

- + 1st Reading: Old Testament Reading
- + The Responsorial Psalm
- + 2nd Reading: New Testament Reading

At the end of each of the Readings:

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

All: Alleluia, Alleluia!
I am the Light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to N.

All: Glory to you, Lord.

At the end of the **Gospel:**

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY



Prayers of the Faithful

Celebrant: *Let us on this happy day ask God our Father to look on these children who are about to be baptised, on their parents, Godparents, extended families and all gathered here.*

Reader: Lord we give thanks for these children who are being welcomed into the family of the Church today. Keep them safe in your loving care, Lord, as they travel the journey of life. May they continue to bring joy and happiness to all they meet. Lord hear us.

All: Lord graciously hear us.

Reader: We pray that these children will be nourished by the support of their families and the community as they mature in faith. Lord, through Baptism and Confirmation make them your faithful followers. Inspire them to hear and follow your Gospel, and give witness to you in all they say and do. Lord hear us.

All: Lord graciously hear us.

Reader: Lord, bless the parents, Godparents and families gathered here. We pray that they will continue to offer love and encouragement to all who will be baptised. May they share together times of celebration and support each other in times of difficulty. Lord hear us.

All: Lord graciously hear us.

Reader: Lord, we pray for all those who teach or work with the young. Bless them and inspire them to nurture each child in their care, knowing that they are precious, created in the image of God. Lord hear us.

All: Lord graciously hear us.

Reader: Lord, we remember today all children who live in poverty or suffer from injustice and oppression. Give us the courage to build your Kingdom by working for peace and justice in whatever way we can. Lord hear us.

All: Lord graciously hear us.

Reader: We pray for our beloved dead, and especially family members of those gathered here—grant them peace in your heavenly Kingdom, Lord. We give thanks for their lives of faith and pray that we will continue to cherish the light of faith they have entrusted to us. Lord hear us.

All: Lord graciously hear us.



Litany of the Saints

<i>Reader:</i>	<i>Holy Mary, Mother of God.....</i>	All:	Pray for us.
<i>Reader:</i>	<i>St. Joseph.....</i>	All:	Pray for us.
<i>Reader:</i>	<i>St. Michael the Archangel.....</i>	All:	Pray for us.
Reader:	St. John the Baptist.....	All:	Pray for us.
Reader:	St. Patrick.....	All:	Pray for us.
Reader:	St. Brigid.....	All:	Pray for us.
<i>Reader:</i>	<i>St. Aidan of Ferns.....</i>	All:	Pray for us.
Reader:	St. Ibar.....	All:	Pray for us.
Reader:	St. Moling.....	All:	Pray for us.
Reader:	All holy men and women.....	All:	Pray for us.

PREPARE

Preparatory Rites



PREPARE

'Catechumen' is the name given to a person who is preparing to become a member of the Church.

Your children will now be anointed with the Oil of Catechumens; this is blessed olive oil and is a sign of strength and God's protection. We pray that these children will always be graced with God's strength and guidance on their journey through life and that they will remain resilient and faithful to God.

Each child is anointed on the breast with the oil of catechumens.

Prayer of Protection

Celebrant: Almighty and ever-living God, you sent your only Son to overcome evil, to rescue us from sin, and to bring us into your kingdom. We pray for these children who will face life's dangers and temptations, strengthen them with the grace of Christ. Send your Holy Spirit to live within them. Watch over them at every step of life's journey. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

Anointing before Baptism

Oil of Catechumen

Celebrant: N.N. 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.

All: Amen.

CELEBRATE

Celebration of Baptism



Blessing of Water for Baptism

The celebrant blesses the water that will be used to baptise the children.

Celebrant: We ask God to give these children new life in abundance through water and the Holy Spirit. Praise to you Almighty God and Father. In Baptism we use your gift of water, which is a rich symbol of the grace you give us in this sacrament.

All: **Blessed be God for ever.**

Celebrant: Praise to you, God the Holy Spirit, for you anointed Jesus at His baptism in the waters of the river Jordan.

All: **Blessed be God for ever.**

Celebrant: You set us free and fill our hearts with the Spirit of your love, that we may live in peace and goodness.

All: **Blessed be God for ever.**

Celebrant: Through the baptism of water and the Holy Spirit, we are united in your Son Jesus Christ..

All: **Blessed be God for ever.**

Celebrant: You call these children to this cleansing water and new birth that by sharing the faith of the Church they may have eternal life. Bless this water in which they will be baptised. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

Profession of Faith



The children will be baptised into the faith of their parents, so the parents, guardians and godparents renew their own faith and Christian commitment.

Celebrant: Parents and Godparents, You have chosen to present these children for baptism.

By water and the Holy Spirit they are to receive the gift of new life from God, who is love.

The seed of faith sown today needs your Christian values, your prayer and your strong faith, if your child is to experience what being Christian is all about.

Today you have chosen to bring your child into the Christian Community. In the months and years ahead you have the privilege and the responsibility of helping your child to become a young Christian.

As you accept this responsibility, I invite you to renew your own Christian commitment.

Celebrant: Do you reject Satan?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

Celebrant: And all his works?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

Celebrant: And all his empty promises?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth?

Parents and Godparents: I do.

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

Parents and Godparents: I do.

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

Parents and Godparents: I do.

The celebrant and the congregation give their assent to this profession of faith:

Celebrant: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. Your child is baptised into this faith — the faith we share as the people of God and are proud to profess.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, may the Spirit be with you to guide and strengthen you as you take on the responsibility of Christian parents.

All: Amen.



Baptism



The celebrant invites the families to the font one by one.

Using the name of the individual child, he questions the parents and godparents..

Celebrant: Is it your will that N. should be baptised in the faith of the Church, which we have all professed with you?

Parents and Godparents: It is.

He baptises the child, saying:.

Celebrant: N., I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

He pours water upon the child .

Parents and Godparents: Amen.

N. is welcomed as the newest member of our Christian family.

The priest asks the same question and performs the same actions for each child.

UNDERSTAND

Symbolic Rites



UNDERSTAND

Anointing after Baptism

Oil of Chrism

The Sacred Oil of Chrism is olive oil, perfumed with balsam and blessed by the Bishop during Holy Week. In this way, it connects every Baptism to the wider life of the Church and to our diocesan family.

Today, your child is anointed with this sacred Chrism on the crown of their head. This anointing is a sign of dignity and belonging. It marks your child as chosen and loved by God. Through Baptism, they now belong to Christ and share in His mission — to help build a world shaped by love, justice and peace.

As parents and family, you are entrusted with helping your child grow into this calling, so that their life may reflect Christ as priest called to offer their life in love, as prophet called to speak the truth with courage, and as king serving others with humility.

Celebrant: In Baptism, God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has freed you from sin, given you a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit and welcomed you into his holy people. He now anoints you with the Chrism of Salvation. As Christ was anointed Priest, Prophet and King so may you live always as members of His body, sharing everlasting life.

All: **Amen.**



Clothing with White Garment

After their Baptism, the first Christians wore white for a week to show they had taken on a new way of life. The putting on of the white garment is a visible sign of the new life in Christ Jesus that you have chosen for your child.

Celebrant: N. & N. you have become a new creation, and have clothed yourselves in Christ. See in this white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity. With your family and friends to help you by word and example, we pray that you will bring that dignity into the everlasting life of heaven.

All: **Amen**



Lighting the Baptismal Candle

The Easter Paschal Candle stands for Christ, the light of the World, Alpha and Omega, our beginning and our end. A small Baptismal candle is lit from the Easter Paschal Candle: The Light and Love of Jesus is being passed on to a new Christian through the parents' faith.

Celebrant: Receive the light of Christ.

A Godparent from each family lights the child's baptismal candle from the Easter Paschal candle and brings it to the parents. The celebrant then says:

Celebrant: Parents and Godparents—this light is entrusted to you to be kept burning brightly. These children of yours have been enlightened by Christ. They are to walk always as children of the light. May they keep the flame of faith alive in their hearts. When the Lord comes, may they go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.

Parents: **God our Father,
With joy we welcome N.N into our family.
With joy we take this child to our hearts.
Send us the help of your Spirit
so that in raising our child
we will always know what to do
and have the strength to do it.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Prayer over the Ears and Mouth



Today, we pray that the children who have been baptised will be faithful to their Baptismal mission to hear God's word in their lives and share it with others in actions and words.

As your child grows, you will help them to listen for God's voice in Scripture, in prayer, and in the love of others – and to speak words of kindness, truth and faith.

The celebrant gently touches the ears and mouth of each child with his thumb.

Celebrant: The Lord Jesus healed those who could not hear or speak.
 May he touch your ears to receive his word and your mouth to
 proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father.

All: **Amen.**

BLESS

Concluding Rite



The newly baptised children, their parents and godparents gather around the Altar. The Christian community gather here to celebrate the Eucharist. It is our hope that these children who have celebrated the sacrament of Baptism will come here to celebrate the sacraments of Confirmation and the Eucharist. Together these three sacraments welcome new members fully into the Church.

The Lord's Prayer

The celebrant stands in front of the altar and addresses the parents, godparents and the whole assembly in these or similar words:

Celebrant: These children have been baptised and are now called children of God. It is the beginning of the journey of life. With God's help, you will have the joy of being with these children when they receive Holy Communion, and of seeing them take on mature Christian living in the Sacrament of Confirmation, when the fullness of God's Spirit is given. Let us now pray together as God's family:

All present join the celebrant in singing or saying:

All: **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
they will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us:
and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Blessings



The celebrant first blesses the newly baptised children, then the parents. the godparents, grandparents and siblings, and lastly the entire assembly.

For the newly Baptised:

Celebrant: May God, the almighty Father, Who filled the world with joy, by giving us his only Son, bless these newly baptised children, N and N. May they grow to be more fully like Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

For the parents:

God the Father, through his Son, the Virgin Mary's child, has brought joy to all Christian mothers, as they see the hope of eternal life shine on their children. May He bless the mother of this child. She now thanks God for the gift of her child. May she be one with him/her in thanking Him forever in heaven, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

God is the giver of all life, human and divine. May he bless the father of this child. He and his child's mother will be the first teachers of their child in the ways of faith. May they also be the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do, in Christ Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

For the Godparents, Grandparents and Siblings:

Celebrant: Blessed are you, God of all generations. We thank you for the godparents, grandparents, and siblings who walk with these children in faith and love.

God, bless the godparents as a living sign of the believing community, whose prayers and friendship guide these children throughout their lives.

By the intercession of St. Anne and St. Joachim, bless the grandparents who nurture their grandchildren in your love, wisdom, and mercy.

Bless the siblings, now and in the future, that they may grow in care, respect, and unity, sharing in the joy and responsibility of family. May every child feel cherished and guided to become the person you created them to be. We ask this through Jesus, our Savior, in the unity of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

For all present:

Celebrant: By God's gift, through water and the Holy Spirit, we are reborn to everlasting life. In his goodness, may he continue to pour out his blessings upon all present, that they may always be faithful members of his holy people. May he send his peace upon all who are gathered here, in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: Go in peace.

All: Amen



Record of First Reconciliation

Child's Name:

Date of Reconciliation:

Place of Ceremony:

Priest:

Photo Memory

"You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you"



Record of First Holy Communion

Child's Name:

Date of Communion:

Church:

Priest:

Photo Memory

*"I am the bread of life;
he who comes to Me will not hunger,
and he who believes in Me will never thirst"*



Record of Confirmation

Child's Name:

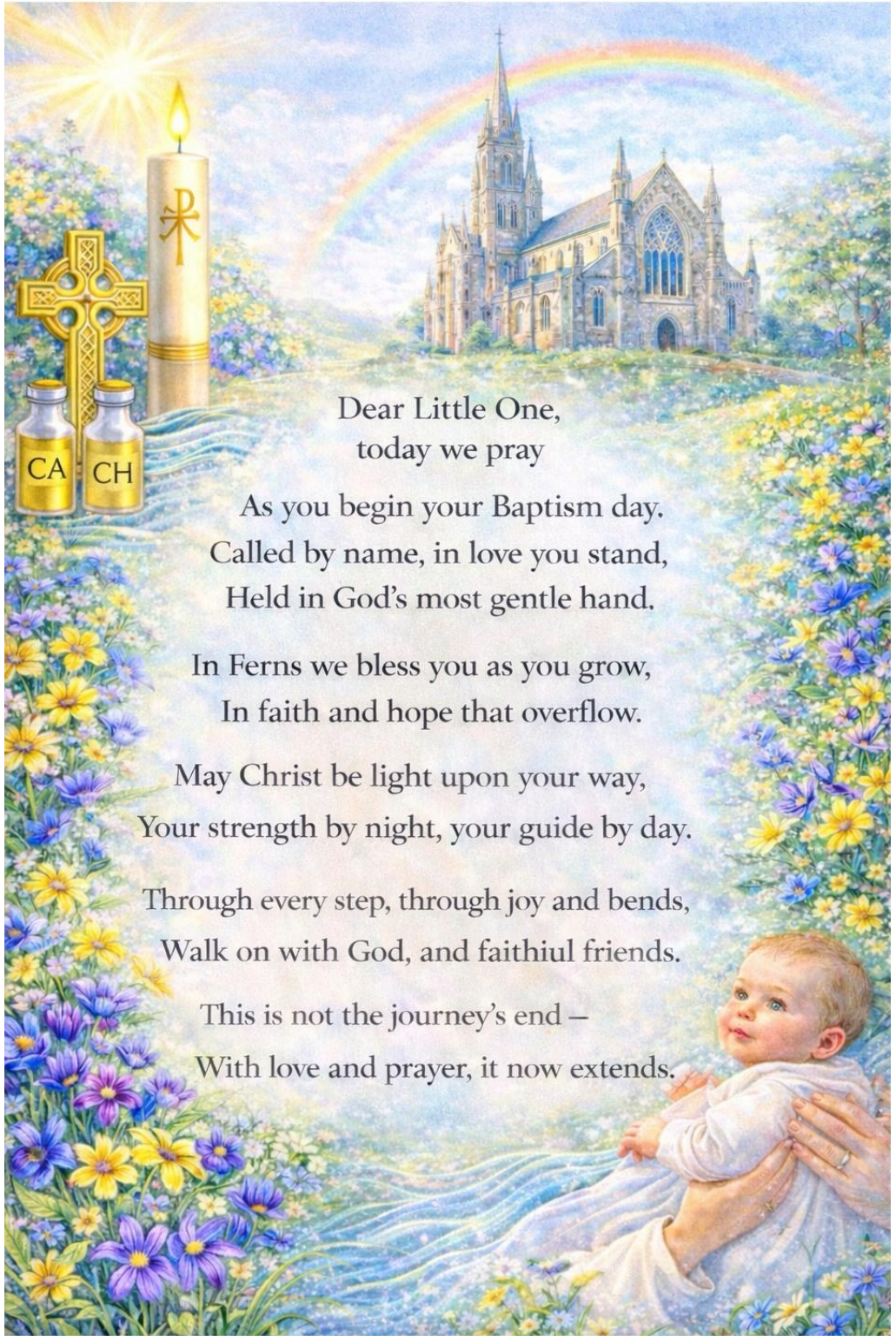
Date of Confirmation:

Church:

Bishop/Priest:

Photo Memory

*"Be strong and courageous.
Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed,
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*



Dear Little One,
today we pray

As you begin your Baptism day,
Called by name, in love you stand,
Held in God's most gentle hand.

In Ferns we bless you as you grow,
In faith and hope that overflow.

May Christ be light upon your way,
Your strength by night, your guide by day.

Through every step, through joy and bends,
Walk on with God, and faithiul friends.

This is not the journey's end –
With love and prayer, it now extends.