

YEAR LEVEL	1 & 2
TITLE	What is Baptism?
STRAND	SACRAMENTS
SUGGESTED DURATION	5 weeks
ENDURING QUESTIONS	Why do we have Sacraments? How can Sacraments influence my life?



Unit Focus

In this unit the students will focus upon the Church, into which all are welcomed at the time of Baptism. As a community of God's people, we are called to follow Jesus, who lived God's Way and proclaimed God's Word to all.

Achievement Standards

By the end of Year 2:

Students identify that Sacraments are special celebrations in the Church. They describe various elements of sacramental celebrations in the Church.

Unit Outcomes

By the end of this unit the students should be able to:

- 1. Express an understanding of their membership of the Church.***
- 2. Name symbols that are part of the celebration of Baptism.***
- 3. Describe ways that the Church celebrates and lives out the Good News of Jesus Christ.***

Key Understandings for Students

- The Church is a community of people who follow Jesus.
- When a person is baptised they are welcomed into the Church.
- As members of the Church, we are called to follow Jesus and to show God's love to all.
- The teachings of Jesus are found in Scripture.

Student Context

For students at this level, generally the family is the centre of their life. However, students will have different experiences of “family” i.e. their family groups will differ in composition and the influences of family life will vary. It will be necessary for teachers to draw out positive aspects of family life for any students who experience negative family influences. Students understand that they can belong to other communities.

Some students will have no experience of Church or of any faith celebrations such as Baptism.

Students at this level are developing the capacity to think symbolically and to see symbols as signs of something more significant. Storytelling is a powerful means of teaching students about their world.

Theological Background for Teachers

- It is initially through our families that we develop as people. For many people, it is through their families that they become people of faith, belonging to the Church.
- We find Christ in the gathering of his followers as Church. The Church, within the context of the local parish, has been, and continues to be a sign of Christ to others, reflecting his love and care for all people.
- The Church is the people of God, a people brought into unity from the unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (cf. LG 13). [It] exists in local communities and is made real as a liturgical, above all a Eucharistic, assembly (CCC 752).
- Membership of the Church is achieved through the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism.
- As a unified faith community, the members of the Church are called to listen to and respond actively to the call of Jesus Christ.
- Jesus is the model for the Beatitudes and the norm of the new law: ‘Love one another as I have loved you.’ (CCC 459: see also Jn 13:34-35; Jn 15:9-17).
- Jesus brings God’s commandments to fulfilment, particularly the commandment of love of neighbour by bringing out their fullest meaning (cf. VS 15).
- A Christian’s life is a response to God’s Word. It is in Scripture that we find the Word of God. Therefore it is necessary that there “is a continual relationship between Scripture and the life of the Church which transmits it integrally, interprets it authoritatively and fulfils it, recognising in Scripture its foundations and its guideline (REF 107).”

Scripture

John 13:34-35 A New Commandment

But I am giving you a new command. You must love each other, just as I have loved you. If you love each other, everyone will know that you are my disciples.

Godly Play - Baptism (Sydney)

Assessment Task

With a partner, students create a product that responds to the question, “What is Baptism?” Students should consider symbols, membership of the Church and celebrations.

Suggested Learning Experiences

Focusing Activity:

Read “Pocket Dogs” (Margaret Wild). Explore the themes in the story of belonging, family and community.

- Think-Pair-Share: What is a family? Are families all the same? A collage of photos could be used in this activity.
- Use activities in Expressions Book 1 Topic 3 to explore symbols and aspects of Baptism and the Church.
- Y Chart: What do families look, sound and feel like?
- Ask children to recall what happened when they started school. Was there a special welcome, transition visits etc. Name other places, clubs etc where we may have special welcome ceremonies. Explain that Baptism is a special welcoming ceremony welcoming us into the Church family.
- Invite a member of the Parish Baptism Preparation Team and a new parent to bring his/her baby in to discuss Baptism preparations.
- Visit the Church (if possible) to look at the Baptismal font, the Easter candle, oil etc. or show photos of a Baptism and discuss what happens.
- Godly Play Baptism. Allow time and resources for response. **(Appendix 1)**
- Children bring any Baptismal photos or mementos to create a display. Children could make certificates with their names, date and place of Baptism, name of Godparents and statement of the parish family that they belong to.
- Complete these statements in written or pictorial form:
“As a member of my family I”
“As a member of the church I.....”
- Think Pair Share responsibilities we have as members of a family. How do we care for each other, make sacrifices? etc Explain that we are members of the Church family. We also have responsibilities. Brainstorm what these may be.
- Read John 13:34-35 and discuss what this reading may mean for us today. Make a ‘Good news’ wall from newspaper clippings or personal news which show people loving one another or following the ways of Jesus.
- Make a banner, ‘We Are Church’ using paintings of their own faces. Display in the Church.

- Make a collage of Baptismal symbols. Explore why each symbol is relevant to Baptism.
- Students create a class prayer litany with the sentence stem “Help us celebrate the good news by.....” Students may write their litany response in small groups. Each group could draw an image or series of images that connects with the statement created.

Prayer and Ritual

Gather students around the class prayer focus.

Students share together their class prayer litany. Each statement is read slowly whilst the image is displayed.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Godly Play Baptism Sydney