

BLESSING OF THE FONT, RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES & COMMISSIONING AS AMBASSADORS OF JESUS CHRIST

A Litany is sung during the procession. All turn to face the font. We relight our hand candles

Blessing of the waters of the font

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
All **who keeps his promise for ever.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the river Jordan,
we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse and revive us.

We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea
you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the Promised Land.

We thank you that through the deep waters of death
you brought your Son, and raised him to life in triumph.

Bless this water, that your servants who are washed in it
may be made one with Christ in his death and resurrection,
to be cleansed and delivered from all sin.

The Paschal candle is lowered into the water three times

Bring to new birth in the household of faith
all who have been buried with Christ in the waters of baptism,
and raise them with him to full and eternal life;
for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours, now and for ever.
All **Amen.**

Renewal of Baptismal vows

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we
remember that through the paschal mystery we have died and been buried with him
in baptism.

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvelous 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 rebellion against God?
All **I reject them.**

Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

All **I renounce them.**

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

All **I repent of them.**

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

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

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

All **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.**

Commissioning as Ambassadors representing Jesus Christ in daily life

On this holy night we celebrate the victory of our Lord Jesus Christ over the powers of sin and death. We have proclaimed God's mighty acts and prayed that the power that was at work when God raised Jesus from the dead might be at work in us.

As we stand in the light of the risen Jesus I invite you to join in fellowship with Christians across the Diocese of London, and to make your personal commitment as an ambassador of Christ, living out what you proclaim. For those who are baptized are called to represent the risen Christ in the places they work, in their homes and families, amongst the communities in which they live, and in each part of daily life.

St. Paul, writing to the Corinthians says "we are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us."

Therefore I ask:

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you persevere in resisting evil,
and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you proclaim by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society,
by prayer for the world and its leaders,
by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

All **With the help of God, I will.**

May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The celebrant sprinkles us with the blessed water as the procession returns to the sanctuary.