

SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION PART 1

Aim

To help the child understand the Sacraments of the Catholic Church, in particular the Sacraments of Initiation: Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.

Resources

Leaders

- Catholic Youth Bible
- Prayer cloth, cross, candle
- Electronic device – laptop/tablet for YouTube links
- At Home with God's People

Child

- Catholic Youth Bible
- Activity Book (page 17-18)

Preparation

for Catechist

Spend some time in prayer for the child. How do you reflect on the scripture? Think of your own stories and be ready to share these.

Background

for Catechist

It would be ideal to begin this session in the church.

As you talk about the Sacraments of Initiation - Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist - it is important to point out the symbols in the church and explain what they represent.



Reflection

As we gather, we light a candle to remember that Jesus is the light of the world. Sit quietly and listen to the words of the song *Open the Eyes of My Heart*.

Open the Eyes of My Heart

<https://youtu.be/wutmEjdbedE>

Video Link 4.1



After listening to the words of the song, *Open the Eyes of My Heart*, share how you have encountered God this week.



Follow up from last session

In the last session, we looked at the timeline of the life of Jesus.

Do you have any questions from the last session or from the Activity Book?



Exploring Part A

What are Sacraments?

Sacraments are a visible sign of an invisible grace. What Jesus did in life, we now do through the Sacraments. Jesus fed and healed people, was filled with the Holy Spirit and continues to give us the Holy Spirit today. Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist and continues to plunge us into the new life of Baptism.

Sacraments bring us to a deeper relationship with God and are a physical sign of God's love, grace and presence in our lives. Before he returned to the Father, Jesus promised that he would be with us always, saying:

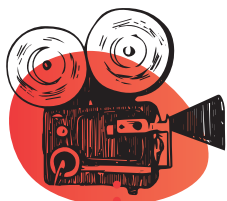
 **Matthew 28:20**

I am with you always, to the end of the age.

There are seven Sacraments in the Catholic Church:

- Baptism
- Confirmation
- Eucharist
- Penance
- Marriage
- Holy Orders
- Anointing of the Sick

As Catholics what we celebrate in Sacraments is reflected in the earthly life of Jesus.



Video

How do Catholics celebrate key events in a person's life? - Archdiocese of Brisbane

<https://brisbanecatholic.org.au/beliefs-and-works/how-do-catholics-celebrate-key-events-in-life/>

Video **Link 4.2** 

How do Catholics celebrate key events in a person life?

What are your responses to watching this clip?



Exploring Part B

Baptism

The first Sacrament we receive is the Sacrament of Baptism.

This was the start of Jesus' ministry and your Baptism will be the start of your Christian life. Jesus shows us how to live the Christian life.

Symbols of Baptism

“ Sacramental Policy of the Brisbane Archdiocese, Sept 2015

In Baptism, God adopts us as children and makes us a new creation through water and the Holy Spirit.

When you are baptised, water will be used as a sign of new life. You will either be immersed in water or have water poured over you by the priest as he calls you by name and says “I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.”

- **Water**
Water gives life to us in the world and the water in Baptism will give you the life of God. You will be welcomed into the Church community.
- **White Garment**
You will be clothed in a white garment during your Baptism to signify your new life in Christ, to show that you are clothed in the risen Christ.
- **Oil**
You will be anointed with Oil as a son or daughter of Christ. It is also a sign that you are called to be a member of the Christian community.
- **Light**
During your Baptism, a candle is lit from the Paschal Candle and presented to you as you are called to be the light of Christ in this world.

The celebrant will pray the following:

“ RCIA 297

“You have been enlightened by Christ, Walk always as children of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in your hearts”.

Through your Baptism, you are called to be light for the world like Jesus and to keep the flame of faith alive in your hearts.

Confirmation

The second Sacrament of Initiation is Confirmation.



Acts 2:1-4

On the day of Pentecost all the Lord's followers were together in one place. Suddenly there was a noise from heaven like the sound of a mighty wind! It filled the house where they were meeting. Then they saw what looked like fiery tongues moving in all directions, and a tongue came and settled on each person there. The Holy Spirit took control of everyone, and they began speaking whatever languages the spirit let them speak.

We can't see the Holy Spirit but we know that when we act like Jesus, the Holy Spirit is with us and we see the effects of the Holy Spirit. We can't see the wind, but we know it is there by looking at the effect it has on the trees as they sway to and fro.

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Holy Trinity and someone we can have a relationship with.

In Confirmation, the Holy Spirit empowers us and strengthens us by giving us the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help us live the Christian way of life. During Confirmation the priest will pray for you:



RCIA 301

'Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide. Give them a spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgement (counsel) and courage (fortitude) the spirit of knowledge and reverence (piety). Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence (fear of the Lord).'

We can see that a person is using the gifts of the Holy Spirit when they are: loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, gentle, generous, faithful, and have self-control.



Symbols of Confirmation

- **Laying on of Hands** - During Confirmation, the priest will pray a special prayer over you, calling down the Holy Spirit: “Send your Spirit upon your child to be their helper and guide”.
- **Oil of Chrism** - The oil of Chrism is consecrated oil and is sweet smelling. The priest ‘seals’ you with the oil of Chrism and calls you by name saying “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.’ It is a sign of the Holy Spirit and completes your Baptism. The priest says “Peace be with you”, and you reply “And with your spirit”. Oil is a symbol of strengthening and anointing; its perfume is a symbol of the fragrance of Christ. It is also a sign that we are called to be a member of the Christian community.

Activity

Church search

The Activity Book (page 17-18) has an outline of a church. While walking through the church, have the child identify where you would find, experience or witness the following:

1. Entrance of the Church
2. Paschal Candle
3. Baptismal Font
4. Ambo
5. Altar
6. Sign of Peace
7. Oil of Chrism
8. Laying on of hands
9. Tabernacle



Living it out in the Everyday

Activity Book

In your Activity Book (page 18), choose one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and describe how you can use this gift to be a disciple of Jesus.

Wisdom - helps us to see what is truly important in our life.

Understanding – helps us to listen and hear, to look and see, so that we will know what God wants us to do.

Right Judgement (counsel) – helps us to choose what is right so that we will be a good example and a light for others.

Courage (Fortitude) - helps us to face our fears and overcome difficulties.

Knowledge – helps us to know ourselves and to know God so that we can be the best person we can be.

Reverence (Piety) – helps leads us to a deep respect for all creation.

Wonder and awe – helps lead us into the mystery of God’s mercy so that we are amazed at the greatness of God.



Scripture and Prayer

Scripture

Listen closely to the following scripture passage.

We begin with the sign of the Cross:



In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Use the Gospel from the following Sunday.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to ...



Glory to you, O Lord.

(At the end of the Gospel)

The Gospel of the Lord.



Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Following a couple of minutes of silence to reflect on the scripture passage, invite the child to share a word or two from the passage that was particularly meaningful for them.

What is one important message for you in this scripture passage?

Prayer

We pray together the words that Jesus gave us.



Our Father...