



Reflecting on our Baptism in the Easter Season

*Once you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord...
Walk as children of the light.” Eph 5:8*

When we think of the Sacrament of Baptism we often focus on the central moment - the pouring of the water and the words of the rite. However, if we think back to the Easter Vigil, the first sign that greets us is the Light of the Risen Jesus in the Paschal candle.

The proclamation is “The Light of Christ”, and as our small candles are lit, we receive that same Light. We all recall what a powerful sign this is, the brightness of the light in the darkness of the night, and then how, soon after that, we renew our Baptismal promises and are reminded that if we die with him, we shall also rise with him.

Sofia Cavalletti in ‘The Religious Potential of the Child’ page 89 says that this light is a ‘linking point, that is, an especially striking element that emphasises the vital nucleus of the theme’. We want to focus on this light with the children for their meditation. Right from the beginning when they are very small, children love to recall and remember their baptism.

The Easter season is the time the Church focuses particularly on this first of the Sacraments of Initiation, beginning with the Blessing and Lighting of the Paschal Candle, our Renewal of Baptismal Promises and the Blessing of the Waters of Baptism at the Easter Vigil.

Some suggestions for focusing on Baptism at home during the Easter season.

- Decorate a tall candle to be your “paschal Candle” (See Liturgy of Light Celebration at home for suggestions on this)
- Make model paschal candles from cardboard tubes
- In the evening, around the prayer table, get out your baptismal candles, light them and thank God for the gift of his light. Pray for those who are yet to receive His light into their hearts.
- Add a bowl of water (not Holy Water) to the prayer table, with a wide flat shell or a small dish or jug for scooping the water and a small face washer next to it for wiping hands.
- You could write the words of baptism onto a card and place on the prayer table near the water bowl.



*(Name) I baptise you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

- The children can make a fist with their non-dominant hand and pour the water over it using a shell, dish or jug while remembering or saying the words that were said to them on that special day. You might say the words for them if they are very little, because speaking and moving are two different languages and one at a time is enough for young children.



- Have Holy water available to the whole house either on the prayer table or in a Holy Water source near your most used door at home.
- Have a daily ritual where each parent blesses the children on the forehead with Holy Water and then blesses each other. Have the children bless the parents too!
- Sometimes, for a change, substitute the words "I am Baptised" for the words of the Sign of the Cross. This helps the children to make the connection between the practise and the Sacrament.
- Spend some time looking at the photos or videos of the children's baptism (or the parents too if you have them!)
- Look up the meaning of the name and/or the life of the saint you are named after.
- Plan to celebrate your baptism days as well as birthdays in the year ahead.

Let the children lead. They may come up with some new ideas for celebrating together.

Please share your stories and photos of your activities and celebrations with us too.



Children reflect on the Light of Christ we receive at Baptism