

RECEPTION OF A BAPTISED CHRISTIAN INTO FULL COMMUNION OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

This rite is for Christians who have been baptised in another denomination whose baptism is recognised by the Catholic Church.

This may be celebrated at any time of the year, except Good Friday and Easter Saturday morning.

It may be celebrated several times during the year.

It is to be celebrated when the candidates are ready so that they do not undergo any undue burden.

For many reasons, it should not be combined with the Rite for the Unbaptised.

The Rite is solemn, simple and pastoral.

It highlights Communion as the summit of the candidate's journey.

The candidate should have one, or even two, sponsors.

The Rite should be celebrated within Mass as this gives the whole community the opportunity to celebrate, but, if for a serious reason this cannot be done, it may be celebrated within a Liturgy of the Word.

If the Rite is celebrated within Mass and the candidate is to receive Communion, he/she should celebrate the Sacrament of Penance beforehand.

RECEPTION WITHIN MASS

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Generally the readings of the day are used.

In Ordinary time you can replace some or all of the readings with those for Mass for Christian Initiation, Rite of Reception, Unity of Christians. Choose carefully.

HOMILY

CELEBRATION OF RECEPTION

Invite the candidate and sponsor by name to come forward. Have them face the community.

N, of your own free will you have asked to be received into the communion of the Catholic Church. You have made your decision after careful thought under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I now invite you, in the presence of this community, to profess the Catholic faith. In this faith you will be one with us for the first time at the Eucharistic table of the Lord Jesus, the sign of the Church's unity.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The candidate and community recite the Nicene Creed together. Have the Creed available on a card for the candidate to read if necessary. You then invite him/her to add the following, also on the card.

I believe and profess all that the holy Catholic Church believes, teaches and proclaims to be revealed by God.

ACT OF RECEPTION

Try to know this off by heart, rather than read it.

Only lay hands on candidate's head whilst saying this if Confirmation does not follow immediately.

N, the Lord receives you into the Catholic Church.

His loving kindness has led you here,

so that in the unity of the Holy Spirit

you may have full communion with us

in the faith that you have professed in the presence of his family.

CONFIRMATION

Lay hands on the candidate's head while you say the words. It is more pastoral to use the name.

All powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
by water and the Holy Spirit
you freed N from sin
and gave him/her new life.

Send your Holy Spirit upon N
to be his/ her helper and guide.

Give him/her the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of right judgement and courage,
the spirit of knowledge and reverence.
Fill him/her with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
AMEN.

ANointing WITH CHRISM

Sponsor places hand on the right shoulder of the candidate.

Dip your thumb into the oil and make a significant sign of the cross on the forehead.

N, be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.
AMEN

As a sign of friendship and acceptance, take the hands of the newly confirmed in your own. You may combine this with

Peace be with you.

Candidate: And with your spirit.

Or then embrace the candidate.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS #409

These are good. They are inclusive. You may add some from Sunday Mass.

SIGN OF PEACE

You may invite the assembly to greet the newly received person in a Sign of Peace. Thus you omit the sign of peace before Communion.

Communion under both kinds is offered to all present.