

## **Baptism sermon**

### **Come! Whoever wishes it may have the Water of life as a free gift**

Both the New Testament and the whole Christian tradition teach that Baptism is central to the Christian religion. Since we believe that God shared our human nature in Jesus Christ, the Church believes that God has chosen very ordinary means to bring his incredible gift of love to everyone's life.

In today's Gospel, we hear about Jesus Transformed in front of the disciples and talking to Elijah and Moses. God's power from above can also transform us as well; in Baptism, to change the Water and the human word into life-giving power.

Christians have used many metaphors and images to express what they believe happens to us in Baptism: rebirth; putting on Christ; becoming a child of God; being liberated from sin; being incorporated in Christ's body, the Church; receiving the Holy Spirit. All these images attempt to express the Church's profound belief that through Baptism, Chloe not only takes her first step on the path that leads to God, but this is a fundamental change in her spiritual life.

Only God has the power to do completely impossible things in our life, says Jesus. With God's grace, we can trust Jesus. With God's grace, we can accept his invitation and begin this amazing adventure with our God, brother, friend, Saviour and Redeemer.

For us Christians, this adventure begins at the moment of Baptism.

In Baptism we are marked as Christ's own forever. In our darkest days, in our weakest moments, God is never going to let us down.

Bringing new life into the world is one of the greatest miracles. Of course, this miracle also brings many responsibilities. Over the years, you will have to care for this beautiful new life and help Chloe to grow and become a loving and happy person, to be able to find joy and to bring that joy to the world.

As St Paul says, 'we have this treasure in earthen vessels. God needs all of you, Chloe's family and friends, all of us, to cherish Christ's life in Chloe, to strengthen this life with our example, to protect it with our faith and devotion.

Dear family and friends, the love you have for Chloe is part of that love that God has for you. Just as you want Chloe to find love, happiness and peace, so does God. Because his love is not only about receiving, but also about committing, sharing and giving. And that's how our life should also be.

In the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, God shows this love. Through this Sacrament, Chloe will become, in a very special way, God's child and part

of the family of the Church. We believe at every Baptism, the sky is torn open, and the Holy Spirit comes down, and God the Father says, "Behold this baby, my child, with whom I am well pleased." We believe that every baby is a beloved child of God; we believe that every baby is caught up in the story.

During Baptism, we encounter several vital signs: The Oil and the Cross - a sign of the Holy Spirit and entrance into the body of the Christian Church; Water - a symbol of divine life; The Baptism Light - a symbol of the transition from death to life in Christ, a symbol of the Resurrection.

Without Water, without the light of the sun, Without the soil - nothing would exist on earth. The Church is the soil; the Water is the sign of the new life free from sin; the candle is the sign of the sun, a sign of Jesus.

The signs of Baptism tell us that we receive everything to blossom like a beautiful flower. Chloe today receives everything on a spiritual level to flourish like a beautiful flower.

Baptism is a moment when God confirms His promises to wash our sins away, to fill us with His Spirit, to raise us to new life, and to make a place for us in His family.

Through Baptism in Water, God will adopt Chloe as his beloved child. In the Baptism, Chloe will be able to hear God's voice: "I have called you, Chloe Peggy, by name; you are mine." You are unique, and you're a special design because that is the way I created you.

In a few minutes by human hands, God will touch you, Chloe, your body and your heart with the power of the sacrament. God knows all about you, and God knows what you need. And God loves you, Chloe, in a way that is only for you. His love is for you, and it is unique. And in a moment, you will be deeply touched by that amazing God's love.

So," The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" Everyone who hears this should also say, "Come!" If anyone is thirsty, let him come; whoever wishes it may have the Water of life as a free gift" (Revelation 22:17).

Fr Adam