



Baptism

Below is only a brief outline of the sacrament along with the Catholic particularity of each sacrament. The recontextualisation of each sacrament is explored and explained in the "Sacraments Tile" on the Awakenings website.

The Sacrament of Baptism is called the *Sacrament of Beginning* as it celebrates both the wonder of being born and one's initiation into the Christian life. Through this sacrament, the child is brought into union with God and becomes one of God's chosen people^[1]. Baptism forms the foundation for all the other sacraments and it is recalled during the celebration of these other sacraments. In the Sacrament of Baptism, the child is named for God and the human community^[2] forming part of the child's identity.

The Sacrament of Baptism is a gift from God. This gift is the gratuitous gift of God's Spirit which is divine love^[3]. This gift of divine love is the grace of the sacrament. In the celebration of the sacrament, human language and symbols are used to express this gift^[4]. Water is used to symbolise new birth as a child of God, anointing with oil as a symbol of conforming to Christ and the candle as a symbol of the light of Christ. The human response to this gift of love is gratitude and praise.

- Baptism is not just giving a child a name but also *naming that child for God*.
- Baptism is not just welcoming the child into a family but also *welcoming the child into the community of the Church*.
- Baptism is not just celebrating a new life but also *celebrating the child becoming a new creation in the Spirit*.
- Baptism is not just wishing that the child has a good life but also *believing the child is taken up into the life of Christ*.
- Baptism is not just offering a candle as a sign of hope that the child will find their way in life but also *the child is given the light of Christ to guide and lead the child through life*.

[1] Lambert J. Leijssen, *With the Silent Glimmer of God's Spirit: A Postmodern Look at the Sacraments*, trans. Marie Baird (Mahwah, New Jersey: Paulist Press, 2007), 46.

[2] Leijssen, *With the Silent Glimmer of God's Spirit*, 45.

[3] Leijssen, 45.

[4] Leijssen, 45.