

## **Catholic Sacrament of Baptism:**

The rite begins with a welcome and greeting from the Priest or Deacon. This is followed by a questioning of the parents and God parents to confirm their wish for baptism. After this the Priest or Deacon and the parents and God parents trace the sign of the cross on the child's forehead.

The liturgy of the word follows. This includes readings from the bible and a homily from the Priest or Deacon. The homily is followed by the rite of exorcism and the anointing with oil. The waters of the baptismal font are then blessed and those present make a profession of faith, including a renunciation of sin. The Baptism follows, usually involving a pouring of water on the baby's head. The child is then clothed in a white baptismal garment and the parents and God parents receive a baptismal candle.

The reception of the candle is followed by the ancient prayer of Ephphatha where the Priest or Deacon prays that the child's ears will be open to receive the word of God and that their mouth will be open to proclaim the Gospel. The Our Father is then prayed followed by a final blessing.