

# Spirit of the Season

## Autumn 2002

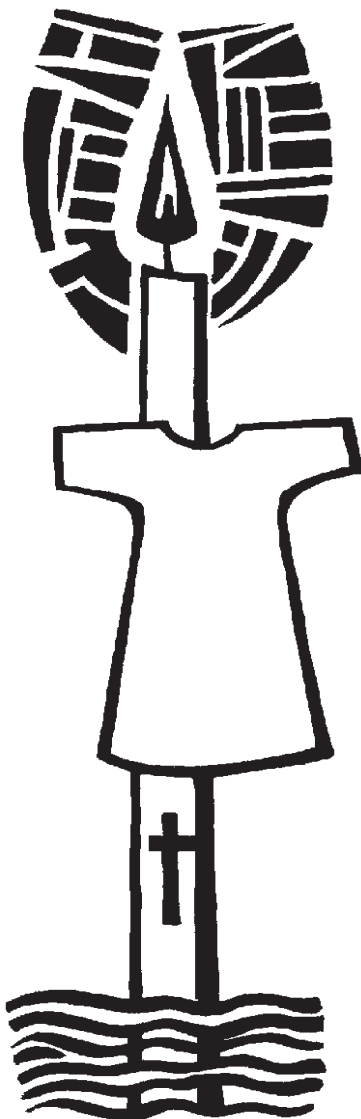
Liturgical Year A

[www.liturgyoffice.org.uk](http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk)

# Babies 4 God!

Have you noticed the comments people make when they see a new baby? To the new mother, 'He's got your nose!' To an older brother or sister, 'She's looks just like you when you were born!'

From the start the baby's relationship to the rest of the family is important. She or he becomes part of the family story and memories are stored up about the journey to the hospital or the time of day or night it was or how the new arrival took everyone by surprise. It is amazing how often at family get-togethers such



stories are remembered and retold.

For the People of God, Baptism is a moment of recognition and joy in relationships that are forever. The baptised are welcomed as new sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters in a family that crosses the boundaries of time and space. Each of us brings our story to become part of the on-going story of God's love and we become tellers of this story in all we say and do.



Something worth remembering:

Blessing ourselves with holy water on entering a church is an invitation to remember we come in as 'family'.

### Getting In Touch

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# The Saints, our brothers and sisters, our family

**All Saints** (Friday 1 November) is a major feast day in the Autumn term. Saints are images of Christ showing how we can live like Christ everyday. We are called in baptism to be presences of Christ to other people. It is not a coincidence that we celebrate **All Souls** (2 November) the day after All Saints and remember those who have gone before us throughout the month of November. They are all aspects of same mystery—God's promise of everlasting life.

## Two Songs about Saints

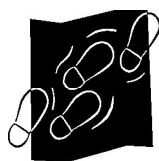
Saints everywhere—Anne White  
(*Rejoice 2*)

Saints of God—Bernadette Farrell (*God beyond all names*) written as a response for the Litany of Saints can be used in many other ways: by itself, as a prayer response.

## Saints you have known

An opportunity to do something:

Ask the children to identify special people in their lives - with older children it could be someone who has died



How are/were they presences of Christ

What special gifts do they have?

How do we recognise (in what ways) Christ in other people?

1 Corinthians 13: 4-7 Love is patient - would be a good text or checklist to identify the ways.

Ask the children to write letter to or write about their special person. Or they could create a picture or bring in a photograph.



## Liturgy idea

Invite the children to hold their work or picture in their hands.

Listen to the reading from 1 Corinthians.



Invite the children to say how their person is special.

Sing *I will never forget you* Carey Landry (most hymnbooks)

As we will not forget our special person (our Saints) so will God not forget us.

## A Day to Remember

Find out when patronal feast is of your school or parish. This is the feast day of the patron of your school. If you are St Patrick it's 17 March: St Alban — 20 June. How will you celebrate, mark the day as special?

## Praise God in the Morning

Do you have a prayer or song to start every weekday?



Do you have a school prayer? For a very full and complete resource for the school year take a look

at *Children's Daily Prayer*

2002-3 distributed by McCrimmons (01702 218 956). This provides a seasonal texts and a short reading and prayer for every day.

One of the themes of the Church's Morning Prayer is praising God for each new day - so a short song of **praise** can start each day:

We sing your glory—Bernadette Farrell (Share the Light)

This day was made by the Lord—Christopher Walker *refrain only?* (*Music for Children's Liturgy of the Word*)

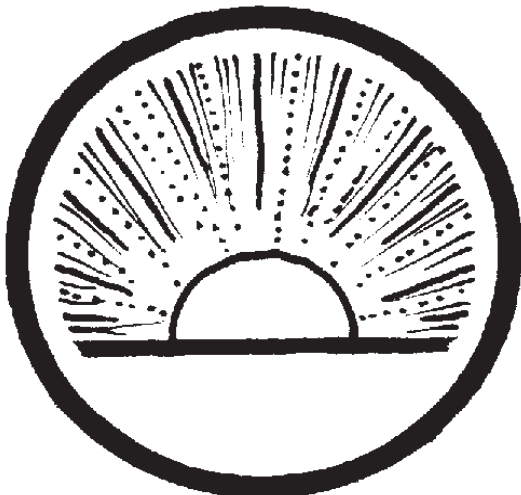
Sing with Joy—Paul Inwood *a verse a day?* (*Children at Heart*)

Or a song about **Mornings**

Morning Song—Monica White (*Rejoice 1*)

A new day begins—Andrew Wright (*Rejoice 2*)

Or begin each day simply with the **Sign of the Cross** then sing about it: In the cross of Christ our Saviour - Marty Haugen (Laudate 391) Just use the refrain each day but the verses could be spoken and acted out by the children.



## Images of Christ



Collect lots of different images of Christ from all over the world, different centuries; photos paintings, icons, sculptures, etc..

Make a resource for yourself

For yourself or with children — Lay all the images out and pick one — reflect on why you have chosen a particular image.

Another resource would be the Video of the BBC series 'Son of God' which showed a reconstruction of a typical face from the time of Jesus.

## Singing Psalm 139

The wonder of my being  
— Anne White (*Rejoice 2*)

Yahweh, I know you are near  
— Dan Schutte (most hymnbooks)

O God, you search me  
— Bernadette Farrell (Laudate)

## The Prayer Space in Autumn

- Find a focused and attractive space.
- Use seasonal / liturgical coverings.
- The use of quality materials will say it is important.
- Be bold and striking.
- Embrace simplicity and beauty.

*Include some of the following:*

- Icons/ Images/ Children's work.
- Bible.
- Prayer texts.
- Candle.
- Seasonal 'living' plants /flowers.
- 'Stuff' from the environment.

Involve the children — it's their space. Keep it alive and fresh.

# The Presences of Christ on Page Four

You can expect to find on this page of Spirit of the Season during this year an exploration of presences of Christ. Our ideas are fed from the Liturgy document of Vatican II (*Sacrosanctum Concilium*, 7)

Christ is always present in his Church

- in the people gathered in his name
- in his word proclaimed
- in the sacraments celebrated
- in the person of his minister.

We never come into a church as strangers. We always come in signing ourselves in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. In this simple gesture and the use of holy water we remind ourselves that through Baptism we became sons and daughters of God, members of the

Body of Christ. When we gather Christ is present and we are symbol of his presence.



**Y**ou made me, God.  
You were there  
at my very beginning.

*God's Story 1 p.12-13,  
based on Psalm 139*

**N**ot long afterwards  
Jesus came from  
Nazareth in Galilee and  
was baptised by John  
in the river Jordan.  
As he was coming up  
out of the water the  
Spirit came down upon  
him and a voice from  
heaven said, "You are  
my son, whom I love."

*Gods' Story 3 p.80,  
based on Mark 1:9-11*

 An opportunity  
to go and do  
something:

Have the children seen the font in your local church?

 An opportunity  
for some Word  
Art on the  
walls:

Look up *Here I Am* Key Words for this topic:  
**Initiation**

## Classroom Art Opportunity

You could photocopy these images to help teach the sign of the cross. Please note: Each image has been inverted mirror style to make things easier for you to use in the classroom situation.



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