



Sacraments of Initiation (full reception on one single occasion) during Mass
(to be celebrated at any time, preferably in small groups)

(For use in 2020, during the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic outbreak)

This text serves for full reception of the Sacraments of Initiation on one single occasion, when celebrating the Rites of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens, the Election, or the Scrutinies is not feasible.

Catechumens, godparents, relatives, friends, catechists, and the pastor are to take part. During the Mass, celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation follows the Homily.

RECEIVING THE CANDIDATES

The catechumens and their godparents gather outside or inside the church, either near the church entrance or at another suitable location.

The priest, wearing liturgical vestment, goes to meet the catechumens.

GREETING

The celebrant greets the catechumens and those who are present, expressing the joy of the Church in having new members joining her. He may also recall the personal experience of the catechumens in seeking the Christian faith.

A catechist or teacher can call out the name of each catechumen.

The catechumen responds: **Present.**

OPENING DIALOGUE

Facing the catechumens, the celebrant questions the individual catechumens.

Priest: What do you ask of God's Church?

Catechumen: Faith.

Priest: What does faith offer you?

Catechumen: Eternal life.

The celebrant addresses the catechumens, using the following or similar words to summarize the Christian faith.

Priest: This is eternal life: to know the one true God and Jesus Christ, whom he has sent. Christ has been raised from the dead and appointed by God as the Lord of life and ruler of all things, seen and unseen.

You would not ask for this life or seek baptism today, unless you had already come to know Christ and wanted to become his disciple. And I ask you, have you listened to Christ's word and resolved to keep his commandments? Have you shared our way of life and joined with us in prayer? Have you done all these things with the intention of becoming a Christian?

Candidate: I have.

AFFIRMATION BY THE GODPARENTS

(The celebrant turns to the godparents)

Priest: You are the candidates' godparents. As God is your witness, do you consider them worthy to be admitted today to the sacraments of Christian initiation?

Godparent: I do.

Priest: You have testified on behalf of the candidates. Are you prepared to help them to serve Christ by your words and example?

Godparent: I am.

[If appropriate, the celebrant asks the entire assembly for its assent.]

PRAYER

(The celebrant, with hands joined, says:)

Priest: Father of mercy, we thank you for your servants. You have sought and summoned them in many ways and they have turned to seek you. You have called them today and they have answered in the presence of the Church. Look favorably upon them and let your loving purpose be fulfilled within them. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

ENTRY INTO THE CHURCH

The celebrant invites the catechumens and their companions to enter the church to listen to God's word and receive the sacraments.

When all have come to their seats, the Introductory Rites of the Mass are omitted and the Liturgy of the Word begins.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

(The following readings or those of the day are adopted.)

FIRST READING *(I shall pour clean water over you and you shall be cleansed of all your sins.)*

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel (36:24-28)

Thus says the Lord:

I will take you away from among the nations, gather you from all the foreign lands, and bring you back to your own land. I will sprinkle clean water upon you to cleanse you from all your impurities, and from all your idols I will cleanse you.

I will give you a new heart and place a new spirit within you, taking from your bodies your stony hearts and giving you natural hearts.



I will put my spirit within you and make you live by my statutes, careful to observe my decrees. You shall live in the land I gave your fathers; you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

—The Word of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (42:3; 43:3, 4)

R. My soul is thrusting for the living God. (Ps 42:3a)

Athirst is my soul for God, the living God. When shall I go and behold the face of God? (R)

Send forth your light and your fidelity; they shall lead me on, and bring me to your holy mountain, to your dwelling-place. (R)

Then will I go in to the altar of God, the God of my gladness and joy; then will I give you thanks upon the harp, O God, my God! (R)

SECOND READING (We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that we too might live in newness of life.)

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans (6:3-11)

Brothers and sisters: Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God. Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus. —The Word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (See Col 2:12)

R. Alleluia, alleluia!

We were buried with Christ in baptism, in baptism we have been raised with him. (R)

GOSPEL (No one can see the Kingdom of God without being born from above.)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John (3:1-6)

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. He

came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you are doing unless God is with him.”

Jesus answered and said to him, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born from above, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.”

Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man once grown old be born again? Surely he cannot reenter his mother’s womb and be born again, can he?”

Jesus answered, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless one is born of water and Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. What is born of flesh is flesh, and what is born of spirit is spirit.”

—The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

The elect and their godparents are asked to come forward.

INTERCESSIONS AND PENITENTIAL RITE

Priest: Let us pray for our candidates who asks for Christ’s sacraments, and let us pray for ourselves, sinners that we are, that we may all draw nearer to Christ in faith and repentance and walk untiringly in newness of life.

Reader: That, the Lord may kindle in these candidates a spirit of true repentance, let us pray to the Lord:

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That, they who are to die to sin and be saved by Christ through baptism, may be living proof of his grace, let us pray to the Lord: (R)

Reader: That, with trust in God’s love and sorrow for sin they may prepare to meet Christ their Savior, let us pray to the Lord: (R)

Reader: That, by following Christ, who takes away the sin of the world, they may be healed of the infection of sin and freed from its power, let us pray to the Lord: (R)

Reader: That, by the power of the Holy Spirit they may be cleansed from sin and guided along the paths of holiness, let us pray to the Lord: (R)

Reader: That, through burial with Christ in baptism they may die to sin and live always for God, let us pray to the Lord: (R)

Reader: That, on the day of judgement they may come before the Father bearing fruits of holiness and love, let us pray to the Lord: (R)

Reader: That, the entire world, for which the Father gave his beloved Son, may believe in his love and turn to him, let us pray to the Lord: (R)



The celebrant asks the elect to bow their heads, or kneel, and join the congregation in making a general confession: I confess to almighty God..... The absolution "May almighty God" is not said. Exorcism follows.

Alternatively, the penitential rite may be omitted. Exorcism follows.

EXORCISM

The celebrant, with hands outstretched over the elect, says:

Priest: Father of mercies, you sent your only Son to rescue us from the slavery of sin and to give us freedom as your children.

We pray for your servants; they have faced the temptations of this world and been tested by the cunning of Satan; now they acknowledge their sinfulness and profess their faith.

By the passion and resurrection of your Son, deliver them from the powers of darkness and strengthen them through the grace of Christ, that they may journey through life, shielded by your unfailing care. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

Priest: May Christ our Savior strengthen you with his power, for he is Lord for ever and ever.

Elect: Amen.

The celebrant may proceed immediately with the anointing of the elect with the Oil of Catechumens. Otherwise he may omit the anointing, and instead, he lay hands on the elect.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION

BLESSING AND INVOCATION OF GOD OVER BAPTISMAL WATER

Priest: Dear friends, let us pray to almighty God. May he give our candidates the new life of the Holy Spirit, whom we are about to call down on this water.

Priest: Almighty God and Father, you have created water to cleanse and give life. In the waters of Jordan your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Spirit, so that we might all be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Your Son willed that water and blood should flow from his side as he hung upon the cross, so that from his Death and Resurrection the Church might be born.

Come to us, Lord, Father of all, and make holy ✠ this water which you have created, so that all who are baptized in it may be washed clean of sin, and be born again to live as your children.

Make this water holy✠, Lord, so that all who are baptized into Christ's death and resurrection by this water may become more perfectly like your Son.

(The celebrant lays his right hand over the water and continues:)

Lord, make holy this water which you have created, so that all those whom you have chosen may be born again by the Holy Spirit, and may have a portion among your holy people.

You have called your children to this cleansing water that they may share in the faith of your Church and have eternal life. By the mystery of this consecrated water lead them to a new and spiritual birth. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

RENUNCIATION OF SIN BY THE ELECT

Priest: Do you renounce sin, so as to live in the freedom of the children of God? Elect: I do.

Priest: Do you renounce the lure of evil, so that sin may have no mastery over you? Elect: I do.

Priest: Do you renounce Satan, the author and prince of sin? Elect: I do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH BY THE ELECT

Priest: Do you believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth? Elect: I do.

Priest: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was born of the Virgin Mary, suffered death, and was buried, rose again from the dead, and is seated at the right hand of the Father?

Elect: I do.

Priest: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting?

Elect: I do.

(Baptism takes place immediately after the Profession of Faith.)

BAPTISM

(In view of the pandemic, baptism by the pouring of water is recommended.)

(The godparent places the right hand on the shoulder of the elect.)

Priest: **N., I baptize you in the name of the Father,** *(He pours water the first time.)* **and of the Son,** *(He pours water a second time.)* **and of the Holy Spirit.** *(He pours water a third time.)*

EXPLANATORY RITES

CLOTHING WITH THE WHITE GARMENT

Priest: Dear brethren, you have become a new creation and have clothed yourselves in Christ. Receive this white garment and bring it unstained to the judgment seat of our Lord Jesus Christ, so that you may have everlasting life.

Newly baptized: Amen.



PRESENTATION OF THE LIGHTED CANDLE

Priest: Godparents, please come forward to give to the newly baptized the light of Christ.

*(The godparents pass the candles lighted from the paschal candle to the newly baptized.)
(Then the celebrant says to the newly baptized:)*

Priest: You have been enlightened by Christ. Walk always as children of the light and keep the flame of faith alive in your hearts. When the Lord comes, may you go out to meet him with all the saints in the heavenly kingdom.

Newly baptized: Amen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH BY THE FAITHFUL AND SPRINKLING OF HOLY WATER

*(Then the faithful present rise and recite the Creed, during which holy water is sprinkled to recall the baptism of all.)
(Meanwhile the newly baptized enter the Church.)*

CONFIRMATION

LAYING ON OF HANDS

(The concelebrating Priests stand near the Celebrant, who faces the people and with hands joined, says:)

Priest: My dear friends, let us pray to God our Father, that he will pour out the Holy Spirit on these newly baptized to strengthen them with his gifts and anoint them to be more like Christ the Son of God.

*(All pray in silence for a brief period.)
(The Celebrant and the concelebrating Priests lay hands upon all the newly baptized (by extending their hands over them).)*

Priest: All powerful God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, by water and the Holy Spirit you freed your sons and daughters from sin and gave them new life. Send your Holy Spirit upon them to be their helper and guide. Give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence. Fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

ANOINTING WITH CHRISM

(The Celebrant or Priest dips his right thumb in the Chrism and makes the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of the one to be confirmed.)

Priest: **N., be sealed ✠ with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.**

Newly confirmed: Amen.

Priest: **Peace be with you.**

Newly confirmed: And with your spirit.

The general intercessions may be omitted.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

*(Then the newly baptized bring forward the bread and wine.)
(The Prayer over the Offerings, Preface and Prayer after the Communion as follows or those for the current Sunday or Feast of the day.)*

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O Lord, who have graciously gathered into your priestly people those you have conformed to the likeness of your Son (and perfected with the seal of chrism), be pleased, we ask you, to look upon them as acceptable sacrifices and to receive them favorably together with the offerings of your Church. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

PREFACE I OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For through his Paschal Mystery, he accomplished the marvelous deed, by which he has freed us from the yoke of sin and death, summoning us to the glory of being now called a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for your own possession, to proclaim everywhere your mighty works, for you have called us out of darkness into your own wonderful light.

And so, with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominions, and with all the hosts and Powers of heaven, we sing the hymn of your glory, as without end we acclaim: *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts . . .*

*(In the Eucharistic Prayers there are proper intercessions.)
(In the intercessions of Eucharistic Prayer II, after the words and all the clergy, the following is added:)*

Remember also, Lord, the newly baptized who, through Baptism and Confirmation, have today been joined to your family, that they may follow Christ, your Son, with a generous heart and a willing spirit. Remember also our brothers and sisters...

(Before the Behold the Lamb of God, the Celebrant may briefly address the newly baptized about receiving their first Communion and about the excellence of this great mystery, which is the climax of Christian Initiation and the centre of the entire Christian life.)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (Cf. 1 Jn 3:2)

Now we are God's children, and what we shall be has not yet been revealed.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, that by the power of this Sacrament we, who have proclaimed in celebration the glorious mystery of your Son's Death and Resurrection, may also profess it by our manner of life. Through Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

Released by the Hong Kong Diocesan Liturgy Commission

Imprimatur: Cardinal John Tong, Apostolic Administrator of Hong Kong, 29 September 2020