

# The Christians

## Sacraments

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- A sacrament is a sign of something that can not be seen.
- Christians can celebrate 7 sacraments in their lives.
- These are baptism, the Eucharist, confirmation, reconciliation, holy orders, marriage and the sacrament of the sick

# Baptism

- Baptism is the first sacrament.
- Babies are usually baptised but adults are able to be baptised as well. They are welcomed into the church family.
- Water and special oils are used in the baby's head.
- A candle is lit to show the 'light of Christ' in the child's life.
- The baby's parents chose Godparents who promise to look after the child forever. Do you know who your Godparents are?
- Special promises are made on behalf of the baby.
- The baptism ceremony takes place in church and is usually followed by a party or other celebration.

# Reconciliation.

- Reconciliation is the sacrament of forgiveness.
- During this sacrament Christians say that they are sorry for the bad things that they have done by confessing their sins.
- Christians tell the priest or vicar what they have done wrong and the vicar asks God to forgive them.
- To prove that they are truly sorry, the person has to say a penance and try not to sin again.
- God says that he will forgive us for anything bad that we do as long as we are sorry for it.

# The Eucharist

- The sacrament of the Eucharist is also known as Holy Communion.
- Everybody dresses in smart clothes, the girls wear white dresses and boys wear suits.
- Children prepare for their Holy Communion in school but the sacrament takes place in church, again this is usually followed by a party
- At a Holy Communion children are allowed to have bread and wine in church for the first time.
- Christians believe that the bread and wine turns into the body and blood of Jesus. By taking part in the Eucharist each Sunday, Christians are doing as Jesus asked them to at the last supper.

# Confirmation

- When Christians are teenagers, they make their confirmation.
- Confirmation is similar to a baptism where the person makes promises. This time the person chooses to make these promises themselves.
- The person making their confirmation chooses someone to 'stand for them', just like they had Godparents at their baptism.
- The same oils are used at the confirmation as were used at the baptism.
- A very important person in the church called the Archbishop comes to the ceremony.

# Matrimony

- The sacrament of marriage or matrimony is when two people get married.
- The couple are 'joined together' and their relationship is blessed by God.
- The bride wears a white dress and the groom wears a suit.
- The bride's father 'gives' her to her new husband and the couple promise to love each other forever. They give each other rings.
- This sacrament takes place in church and but is often followed by a big party, where people tell stories about the bride and groom.

# Holy Orders

- Holy orders is sacrament only taken by some people. This is when they want to 'work for the church'.
- The priest or vicar, usually a man, promises to devote their whole lives to the God and often do not even have families.
- Just like married couples, the man of the church gets a special ring.

# Sacrament of the sick

- This is usually the last sacrament a Christian can have and is given to people who are very sick and will probably die.
- Sometimes a sick person receives this sacrament and gets well again.
- The sacrament of the sick is normally given to a person in hospital or in their bed at home. The priest or vicar goes to their house.
- In the sacrament of the sick a person is again forgiven for their sins so that when they die they are happy.
- The oils and candles are used again.