

## PREPARATION RITES FOR INITIATION

These rites are only for the unbaptised as they are a prelude to Baptism and set the tone for the day. They may be celebrated sometime on Saturday before the Vigil, preferably within the context of a time of reflection and prayer.

They need to be presided over by the one who is to baptise.

Invite members of the parish.

### MODEL FOR A CELEBRATION OF THE PREPARATION RITES

SONG: When the elect have gathered, the celebration begins with a suitable song.

GREETING: After the singing, the celebrant greets the elect and any of the faithful who are present, using one of the greetings for Mass or other suitable words.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD: The readings may be chosen from those suggested for each rite. If more than one reading is used, a suitable psalm or hymn may be sung between the readings.

HOMILY: A brief homily or an explanation of the text follows the reading of the word of God.

CELEBRATION OF THE RITES CHOSEN: See below.

CONCLUDING RITES: The celebration may be concluded with the prayer of blessing and dismissal.

### PRESENTATION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

*See RITES BELONGING TO THE PERIOD OF PURIFICATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT*

### EPHPHETHA

*The elect come and stand in front of you. Touch the right and left ear and the closed lips of each of the elect with his thumb and say the following formulary.*

Ephphetha: that is, be opened,  
that you may profess the faith you hear,  
to the praise and glory of God.

### RECITATION OF THE CREED

The Recitation of the Creed may take place before, or after, the Anointing.

This is the return of the Creed; do not do this if the Creed was not presented in the first place.

Use whatever version of Creed was presented.

*Stretch out your hands over the elect and pray:*

Let us pray.

Lord, we pray to you for these elect,  
who have now accepted for themselves  
the loving purpose and the mysteries  
that you revealed in the life of your Son.

As they profess their belief with their lips,  
may they have faith in their hearts and accomplish your will in their lives.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R.** Amen.

*Then recite the Creed. It would be wonderful if the elect could recite it, but this is stressful, so it is more realistic to have it written on a card.*

## **ANOINTING WITH OIL OF CATECHUMENS**

The oil has already been blessed at the Mass of the Oils.  
Make sure the elect can be seen.  
The priest who is to baptise should do this; a deacon may do so.

*Anoint the elect on the hands as you pray:*

We anoint you with the oil of salvation  
in the name of Christ our Saviour.  
May he strengthen you with his power,  
who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Elect: AMEN

## **CONCLUDING RITES**

### **BLESSING**

Let us pray.

*With hands outstretched over the elect, say the following prayer.*

Father,  
through your holy prophets  
you proclaimed to all who draw near you,  
'Wash and be cleansed,'  
and through Christ you have granted us rebirth in the Spirit.

Bless these your servants  
as they earnestly prepare for baptism.

Fulfil your promise:  
sanctify them in preparation for your gifts,  
that they may come to be reborn as your children  
and enter the community of your Church.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R.** Amen.

### **DISMISSAL**

May the Lord be with you  
until we gather again  
to celebrate his paschal mystery.

Elect: AMEN