



How do people celebrate new life?

Baptism

Christians believe that celebrating 'new life' is not just about celebrating the birth of a baby.

Many adults wish to be baptised, too, as an outward sign of faith.

Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan by John the Baptist and wished his friends to baptise others.

Baptisms often used to take place In a river. New Christians were dipped under the water's surface and brought up again as a sign of a new birth.



The first part of the service will contain hymns, bible readings and a sermon (talk) by the minister.



Then the candidate and the minister enter a baptismal pool. The former is submerged for a few seconds while the minister says, "I baptise you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit".

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02mwy4d>

Look at this passage from *Matthew 3* where Jesus was baptised. How does what we have just read about link to this?

The Baptism of Jesus

¹³ Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. ¹⁴ But John tried to talk him out of it. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?"

¹⁵ But Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires.^[f]" So John agreed to baptize him.

¹⁶ After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened^[g] and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

Can you find the symbol of the Holy Spirit in this passage?