

Naming Announcement

A naming ceremony to welcome a child or children into a family

Words to be said are in this style: **All:** say these words.

Instructions are in italics.

This service is intended for those families that consider themselves to be 'not religious' and choose not to Christen or those Christian parents that feel only adult baptism is valid or when the candidate can speak for themselves about baptism. This service is therefore a naming ceremony, not a 'Christening' or infant baptism, but a celebration of, and an anniversary of when their child was named and welcomed. Promises are made, and family bonds are strengthened. As a church, we hope that the child or children of this naming ceremony will choose Christ for themselves in due time, and seek immersive baptism in their own right.

Similarly, this service may be used to welcome (an) adoptive child(ren) into a family home. In this context it is intended for young children unable to yet speak for themselves.

This service may be taken by those in minor orders.

The celebrant will say the names of the child(ren) and the parent(s) in the parts shown in square brackets [], [Child's name], [Parents name] etc.

There may be more than one child welcomed in this service, although it is intended to be for only the same family.

The service may be adapted to suit the circumstances.

The family holding the child are seated at the front of the church or hall. God parents and Grandparents are seated on the front row on the other side of the aisle to the parents. Friends and other family members are seated in the rows behind them. The celebrant stands facing the people and says:

Welcome

Celebrant: Welcome to this special occasion to welcome [child's name] and his/her/their [parents name] and [name] on this memorable day.

Celebrant: My name is [clergy name] and it is my privilege to conduct this naming ceremony. I am sure each one of us here is delighted to be sharing in this joyous event. This naming ceremony is intended to welcome [child's name] into this family now, and to allow [child's name] to seek Baptism later in their life(lives), when they've encountered Jesus and sought baptism as their own choice

The Ceremony

Celebrant: Today is a special occasion when friends and family come together, especially as it is to celebrate welcoming a child into your lives. Today, [parent 1 name] and [parent 2 name] wish to share with you all their hopes for [child's name] future. Together they will be making promises to love and nurture [child's name] as

he/she/they continue(s) his/her/their journey through life's rich and interesting path. I am sure that everyone here today offers their support to [parent 1 name] and [parent 2 name] as they embark on this new and exciting chapter in their lives. Some of you have been chosen by them to take on additional responsibilities in the upbringing of [child's name] by taking on the role of God Parents.

Celebrant: The God parents and grandparents [if applicable] of [child's name] will be joining [parent 1 name] and [parent 2 name] in making promises to cherish, love and nurture their son/daughter as he/she/they grow(s).

A prayer may be said.

A Reading, poem or personal message may be inserted here.

This could include a small passage about the family, personal journey, special moments etc.

Celebrant: The arrival of a new child into a family not only marks the beginning of a new chapter in the lives of the parents, but also strengthens the bond between them as they work together to raise their child. We have now come to the moment for [parent 1 name] and [parent 2 name] to formally name their son/daughter. Names are so important in everyday life; they give us our own individual identity. Whilst our first names create our individuality, our family name gives us a sense of belonging and today (baby) [child's name] is extending his/her/their family's history into another generation.

Celebrant: [Parent 1 name] and [parent 2 name] please tell us the name(s) that you have chosen for your child(ren).

Parents say out loud the name(s) chosen.

Celebrant: [Child's name], on behalf of your family and friends who are here today in your honour, we welcome you. Our wish for you is that you are always surrounded by love, peace, security, and happiness and that your life is full of joy, good health, adventure and fulfillment.

Parent's Promises

Celebrant: [Parent 1 name] and [parent 2 name] I am now going to ask you to declare your promises to your son/daughter(s).

Celebrant: Do you promise that you will always love and support [child's name] to the very best of your ability?

Parents: I do so promise.

Celebrant: Do you promise to teach child's name about Jesus, and the Bible stories?

Parents: I do so promise.

Celebrant: Do you promise to work hard to create a safe and loving home to raise [child's name]?

Parents: I do so promise.

Celebrant: Do you promise that you will always be ready to listen to [child's name] and to teach him/her/them the importance of honesty, generosity, and tolerance?

Parents: I do so promise.

Celebrant: Do you promise to inspire [child's name] to follow his/her/their dreams and teach him/her/them to persevere in his/her/their every endeavour?

Parents: I do so promise.

Celebrant: [Parent 1 name] and [parent 2 name] you have now made your promises to [child's name] and everyone here today wishes you strength, courage, and happiness as you continue this very special journey in your lives.

God Parent's Promises

Celebrant: I would now like to invite the chosen God parents to stand and pledge their commitment to playing a supportive and caring role in [child's name] upbringing. Raising a child is a huge responsibility. Therefore, it is important that [parent 1 name] and [parent 2 name] feel able to ask for help, support and guidance from others close to them. The God parents that [parent 1 name] and [parent 2 name] have chosen are people they believe will uniquely enrich [child's name] life, extending the circle of people who will have a special impact on him/her/them as he/she/they grow(s).

Celebrant: Do you promise to support and help [child's name] and his/her/their parents to learn about Jesus and the Bible stories and visit church?

God Parents: I do so promise.

Celebrant: Do you promise that [child's name] will be able to trust you with his/her/their thoughts and turn to you for reassurance and help whenever he/she/they may need it?

God Parents: I do so promise.

Do you promise that you will always be there for [child's name] as a shoulder to lean on and someone to trust and confide in?

God Parents: I do so promise.

Celebrant: Do you promise that you will teach [child's name] to persevere in his/her/their every endeavour, offering your encouragement and guidance as he/she/they grow(s)?

God Parents: I do so promise.

Celebrant: Do you promise to love and treasure [child's name] and inspire him/her/them to achieve his/her/their dreams and ambitions, whatever they may be?

God Parents: I do so promise.

Grandparent's Promises (if applicable)

Celebrant: Grandparents occupy a very special and unique place in the life of a child. [Parent 1 name] and [parent 2 name] would like to acknowledge the special role that you will play in the upbringing of [child's name] as you pledge to love and care for your new grandchild(ren) as he/she/they grow(s) up.

Celebrant: Do you promise to love and support [child's name] offering him/her/them guidance, encouragement, and support whenever he/she/they may need it?

Grandparents: I do so promise.

Celebrant: Do you promise to always find time for [child's name] and to be there whenever he/she/they may need you?

Grandparents: I do so promise.

Celebrant: Do you promise to support [parent 1 name] and [parent 2 name] sharing your wisdom and knowledge with them as they raise [child's name]?

Grandparents: I do so promise.

Celebrant: Do you promise to make precious memories for [child's name] and share special moments with him/her/them to treasure forever?

Grandparents: I do so promise.

A Reading, poem or personal message may be inserted here.

Signing of Certificate and Photographs

Celebrant: The parents, God parents and grandparents (if applicable) will now sign the certificate of promises made to [child's name] today. This is a very special moment and provides a lasting memory of this occasion, which they are delighted to have shared with you.

Music may be played during the signing.

Presentation

With the family gathered around, the celebrant presents a certificate while photographs are taken.

Celebrant: [Child's name] you have been welcomed into a loving family and circle of friends and today is evidence that you will receive love and support throughout your life. Our wish for you is that this will give you the best possible start in life. Everyone here today wishes you good health, happiness, and a bright future. [Parent 1 name] and [parent 2 name] it now gives me great pleasure to present you with your certificate of naming for [child's name].

Conclusion

Celebrant: Thank you all for being here today to share this ceremony with [parent 1 name] and [parent 2 name]. It has been a real privilege to be part of this special day and I do hope that today becomes one of your precious memories. Ladies and gentlemen, would you please stand and join me in welcoming as I present to you, [child's/children's full name(s)].

The people stand and applaud.

Exit from the church or hall.

END of service

Please pray for yourselves and the Old Catholic Apostolic Church regularly.