

## Welcome to Mulbarton Church

### Special Prayer for Today

Lord, as we gather in this place,  
may our worship bring joy to your heart,  
may your Spirit breathe into our souls,  
and may your Word reshape our thinking –  
so that we might have  
the same mindset as Christ.

**Amen.**

### Song: Blessed be your name

#### Changing Your Mind!

- What does it take for you to change your mind?
- How can we make sure that we are open to change?
- What might be the consequences of doing so?

#### (Sorry Prayers) Confession:

God our Father,  
we come to you in sorrow for our sins.

For turning away from you,  
and ignoring your will for our lives;  
Father, forgive us:

**All: save us and help us.**

For behaving just as we wish,  
without thinking of you;  
Father, forgive us:

**All: save us and help us.**

For failing you by what we do,  
and say and think;  
Father, forgive us:

**All: save us and help us.**

#### (Affirmation of our forgiveness) Absolution:

May the God of love  
bring us back to himself,  
forgive us our sins,  
and assure us of his eternal love  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

## A Minute To Win It – Pairs

### Matthew 21:23-32

#### The Question about Jesus' Authority

<sup>23</sup> Jesus came back to the Temple; and as he taught, the chief priests and the elders came to him and asked, “What right do you have to do these things? Who gave you such right?”

<sup>24</sup> Jesus answered them, “I will ask you just one question, and if you give me an answer, I will tell you what right I have to do these things. <sup>25</sup> Where did John's right to baptize come from: was it from God or from human beings?”

They started to argue among themselves, “What shall we say? If we answer, ‘From God,’ he will say to us, ‘Why, then, did you not believe John?’ <sup>26</sup> But if we say, ‘From human beings,’ we are afraid of what the people might do, because they are all convinced that John was a prophet.” <sup>27</sup> So they answered Jesus, “We don't know.”

And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you, then, by what right I do these things.

#### The Parable of the Two Sons

<sup>28</sup> “Now, what do you think? There was once a man who had two sons. He went to the older one and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ <sup>29</sup> ‘I don't want to,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup> Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. ‘Yes, sir,’ he answered, but he did not go. <sup>31</sup> Which one of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The older one,” they answered.

So Jesus said to them, “I tell you: the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the Kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup> For John the Baptist came to you showing you the right path to take, and you would not believe him; but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. Even when you saw this, you did not later change your minds and believe him.

### Road Signs

T-junction  
No U-Turn

### Baptism of Raphael Rex Samir

#### The Liturgy of Baptism:

*The minister prays*

Heavenly Father,  
by the power of your Holy Spirit  
you give to your faithful people new life  
in the water of baptism.  
Guide and strengthen us  
by the same Spirit,  
that we who are born again may serve  
you in faith and love,

and grow into the full stature of your  
Son, Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you in the  
unity of the Holy Spirit  
now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

*The minister addresses the whole congregation*

Faith is the gift of God to his people.  
In baptism the Lord is adding to our  
number those whom he is calling.  
People of God, will you welcome this  
child and uphold him in his new life in Christ?

**All: With the help of God, we will.**

*The minister addresses the  
parents and godparents*

Parents and godparents, the Church  
receives this child with joy.  
Today we are trusting God for their growth in faith.

Will you pray for them,  
draw them by your example into the  
community of faith  
and walk with them in the way of Christ?

**Parents and Godparents:  
With the help of God, we will.**

In baptism Raphael begins  
his journey in faith.  
You speak for him today.  
Will you care for him,  
and help him to take his place  
within the life and worship  
of Christ's Church?

**Parents and Godparents:  
With the help of God, we will.**

*A large candle is lit. The president  
addresses the parents and godparents*

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness  
into his marvellous light.  
To follow Christ means dying to sin and

rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins?

**I repent of my sins.**

Do you renounce evil?

**I renounce evil.**

**The Signing of the Cross:**

*The minister make the sign of the cross  
on Raphael's forehead, saying:*

Christ claims you for his own.

Receive the sign of his cross.

Raphael, do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

**All: Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ  
against sin, the world and the devil,  
And remain faithful to Christ to the end  
of your life.**

*The candidates receive a blessing,  
with these words:*

May almighty God deliver you from  
the powers of darkness,  
restore in you the image of his glory,  
and lead you in the light and  
obedience of Christ.

**All: Amen.**

**Song: Going on a Journey**

**Prayer over the water:**

*The minister, candidate, parents and  
Godparents gather at the baptismal font.  
The minister stands before the water of  
baptism and says*

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

**All: who keeps his promise for ever.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**All: It is right to give thanks and praise.**

We thank you, almighty God,  
for the gift of water  
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.  
Over water the Holy Spirit moved in the  
beginning of creation.  
Through water you led  
the children of Israel  
from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the  
Promised Land.  
In water your Son Jesus received the  
baptism of John  
and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as  
the Messiah, the Christ,  
to lead us from the death of sin to  
newness of life.  
We thank you, Father,  
for the water of baptism.  
It symbolises our burial  
with Christ in his death;  
Our sharing in his resurrection;  
And our rebirth by the Holy Spirit.  
Therefore, in joyful obedience  
to your Son,  
we baptize into his fellowship  
those who come to him in faith.  
Now sanctify this water that, by the  
power of your Holy Spirit,  
those who are baptised in it may know  
cleansing and new birth.  
Renewed in your image,  
may they walk by the light of faith  
and continue for ever in the risen life  
of Jesus Christ our Lord;  
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit  
be all honour and glory,  
now and for ever.

**All: Amen.**

**The Profession of Faith:**

*The minister addresses the congregation*  
Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess  
the faith of the Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the  
Father, source of all being and life,  
the one for whom we exist?

**All: We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son,  
Jesus Christ, who redeemed the world?

**All: We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God?

**All: We believe and trust in him.**

This is the faith of the Church.

**All: This is our faith.**

**We believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

#### **The Baptism:**

*The minister pours water*

*on Raphael, saying:*

*Raphael Rex Samir,*

I baptize you

in the name

of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**All: Amen.**

May God, who has received you by  
baptism into his Church,  
pour upon you the riches of his grace,  
that within the company of Christ's  
pilgrim people you may daily be renewed by his anointing Spirit,  
and come to the inheritance of the  
saints in glory.

**All: Amen.**

#### **The Welcome:**

There is one Lord, one faith, one  
baptism. By one Spirit we are all  
baptised into one body.

**All: We welcome you into the fellowship  
of faith; we are children of the same  
heavenly Father; we welcome you.**

#### **Presentations:**

*A certificate, holding cross and children's bible are presented to the newly baptised with the words:*

Receive this book. It is the good news  
of God's love. Take it as your guide.

*A lit candle is presented to the newly baptised with the words:*

You have received the light of Christ;  
walk in this light all the days of your life.

**All: Shine as a light in the world  
to the glory of God the Father.**

#### **Prayer for Children & Carers**

Faithful and loving God,  
bless those who care for Raphael  
and all children and grant them your gifts of love,  
wisdom and faith.

Pour upon them your healing  
and reconciling love,  
and protect their homes from all evil.  
Fill them with the light of your presence  
and establish them in the joy of your kingdom,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

#### **Prayer for the Baptised**

God of grace and life,  
in your love you have given us  
a place among your people;  
keep us faithful to our baptism,  
and prepare us for that glorious day  
when the whole creation  
will be made perfect  
in your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

#### **Song: Think!**

#### **Think! Embrace the Questions!**

In her book *The Vigil: Keeping Watch in the Season of Christ's Coming*, Wendy M Wright shares advice given to her by a Trappist novice master of a monastery, who said, 'To be a Christian does not mean knowing all the answers; to be a Christian means being willing to live in the part of the self where the question is born.'

#### **Responding in Prayer:**

## Place a Petal

### Responding in Prayer:

Help us to Think!

O Lord, teach us how to think:

**may we love you with all our minds.** (*point to head*)

O Lord, may we not be afraid of questions:

**may we love you with all our minds.** (*point to head*)

O Lord, show us when we should change our minds:

**may we love you with all our minds.** (*point to head*)

O Lord, may our actions match our words:

**may we love you with all that we are.** (*hand over heart*)

Rejoicing in God's new creation,  
As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

### Song: Lost Is Found!

#### The Blessing:

Christ Jesus,  
the splendour of the Father and the image of his being,  
draw you to himself that you may live in his light and share his glory;  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the son and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you, now and always.

**All: Amen**