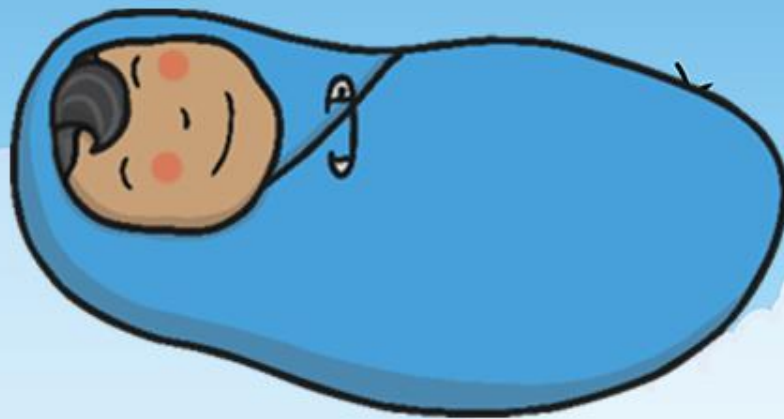


Celebrating Birth in Different Religions

Christianity



A New Baby

It is an exciting time when a new baby is born and people celebrate it in lots of different ways.

Different religions celebrate the arrival of a new baby in their own special ways.

Today you will find out how babies are welcomed to the Christian faith.

This is one way that Christians show their belonging to the Christian faith.



Christianity - Christening †

When a baby is welcomed into the Christian faith, it is called a christening.

It happens in a church and is usually led by someone called a priest or a vicar. At the start of the christening, people will be welcomed into the church and then something will be read from the Bible (the Christian holy book).

The parents and the godparents (close friends or family chosen by the parents to support the child in learning about being a Christian) stand with the vicar, who often then makes a cross on the baby's head with some oil.



Christianity - Christening †



The vicar will then hold the baby's head over a font (a special type of bowl filled with water) and sprinkle their head with water. They will then say the words: "I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

Special prayers are then said for the baby and sometimes they are given a candle for them to remember the ceremony by.

Afterwards, there might be a party or a meal with family or friends. Sometimes babies are bought christening gifts.

Christianity - Christening †

Activity: Complete one of the three Baptism labelling worksheets.

