



The Diocese of
Southwark



Southwark Splash Activities

29 activities on the theme of Jesus' baptism and our baptism

For further details of activities, please see pp 2-5

1. Water Play
2. Cleaning Pennies
3. Dunking - MU may be able to run? Not in chill out space
4. Crossing the Red Sea Competition
5. Floating Oranges
6. Wave Machine
7. Moulded Plasticine
8. Bubbology*
9. Danger Map and worldwide family - Release International
10. Baptism Bunting
11. Anointing oil scented oils etc ANNE
12. Washing Hands Prayer
13. Prayer Flowers
14. Sorry Prayers
15. Paper Dove
16. Marvellous Marbling
17. Font Panels (designer is being asked to create the design)
18. Candlemaking
19. Baptism Bracelet / Keyring
20. Dove / Watersplash Cupcake
21. Crossing Red Sea Paint-blowing Picture
22. Asperging Rosemary*
23. Godparent Cards
24. Music - singing zone
25. Makaton signing zone
26. Labyrinth zone
27. Diddy Disciples
28. Godly Play
29. Christian Aid - water project & prayer

Details of activities

1. Water play

You'll need: paddling pool, baby bath, floating / sinking toys, mop, water

Free play with a baby bath or paddling pool or Aquaplay set, bottles, floating and sinking things

Talk about: What do you use water for each day? What Bible stories can you think of with water in them?

2. Cleaning pennies (Messy Church Does Science Chapter 9)

You'll need: dirty copper coins, vinegar, tissues / kitchen roll, handwipes, rising water

Turn the dirty coins into sparkling clean ones with the vinegar - try soaking / rubbing / scraping: what works best?

Talk about: The candidates will be making a new, sparkling start today and having anything that stops them sparkling washed away. Do you feel like the 'before' pennies or the 'after' pennies?

3. Dunking

You'll need: range of biscuits inc gluten-free, dairy-free etc, warm drinks

Which biscuit dunks the best?

Talk about: Baptism means dunking! Biscuits can't dunk themselves and nor can people baptise themselves: it's about belonging

4. Crossing the Red Sea competition

You'll need: clockwork toys, blue cloths / paper for Red Sea

Can your toy cross the Red Sea before the Egyptian toy can get from the pyramid to the water's edge?

Talk about: the way the people of God passed through water from slavery or death at the hands of the Egyptians on one side to new life in the Promised Land on the other.

5. Floating orange

You'll need: Glasses / vases, water, oranges

Try floating oranges with / without peel: check out online videos under 'Floating Orange'

Talk about: What do we need to uphold us like the floating orange?

6. Wave machine (Messy Church Does Science chap 1)

You'll need: water, plastic bottles, blue food colouring, veg oil, paper towel

Pour a cup of water into the bottle, add a cup of vegetable oil and a few drops of blue food colouring and put the lid on the bottle. Place the bottle on its side and the liquids will separate, with the oil on top. Tip the bottle gently backwards and forwards to create waves. (See MCDS for scientific explanation)

Talk about: seas and their energy; is baptism always a peaceful occasion?

7. Moulded plasticine

You'll need: large bowl of water, plasticine

Take a small piece of plasticine and mould it so it is flat, like a pancake. Place it into the bowl of water and watch it float. Then take the same, or very similar sized, piece of plasticine and mould it into a ball shape. This time it will sink. This experiment works best when the flattened piece of plasticine is very thin.

Also have free-range playdough for non-directive play

Talk about: what shapes us and moulds us?

8. Bubbology

You'll need: Bubble mix, straws, trays, water spray, towels, tablecloth
can you blow three bubbles, one inside the other?

Talk about: God as trinity

9. Danger map and worldwide family (see below)

You'll need: map of world, red flags, blutak / plasticine, list of countries where Christians are persecuted

Place the flags on countries where you think it's dangerous to be a Christian. Check against the list.

Talk about: in some parts of the world it's very dangerous to publicly announce you're a Christian. Where, do you think?

10. Baptism Bunting

You'll need: paper triangles, pens, string, stapler or tape

Write or draw a prayer for the people being baptised today on a bunting triangle.

We'll try to put these up to surround the font

Talk about: At baptism we surround the candidates with our prayers.

11. Anointing oil scented oils etc

You'll need: Oil and a priest

Feel the oil in your hands and feel what it feels like to have the sign of the cross on our forehead if you want to

Talk about: why do we use oil in the baptism service? When else is it used for anointing?

12. Washing hands prayer

You'll need: charcoal, bowls, water, soap, towels

Invite people to get their hands dirty with the charcoal or similar. When we have tings on our consciences, it can feel inside a bit like having dirty hands feels on the outside. In baptism God wants to give us a new, clean start. Wash your hands in the water here and quietly ask God to wash away all you've done wrong and give you a new, clean start.

Talk about: how it feels to get rid of layers of dirt.

13. Prayer flowers

You'll need: paper flowers, pens, bowl of water

Write a prayer and fold the flower; drop it onto the water to unfold slowly

Talk about: prayers for those baptised today

14. Sorry prayers

You'll need: paper towels, water soluble felt tips, bowl of water

Draw or write a sorry prayer on the towel then watch the water dissolve the writing and leave you with a clean towel again - a fresh start

Talk about: baptism is a way of washing away the past and having a clean start

15. Paper dove on a stick

You'll need: paper, thread, pea-sticks, pencils, scissors, templates

Lots of different options online to make a 'floating ' dove dangling from a short stick

Talk about: the story of Jesus' baptism when the Holy Spirit came down on him 'like a dove'

16. Marvellous Marbling

You'll need: shallow tray, blue / green marbling inks, water, stirrer, paper, pens, scissors

Marble card and let it dry; cut out a water drop shape from a plain piece of paper, and write on this a prayer for the people being baptised today. Glue it onto the marbled background.

Talk about: baptisms you've been to

17. Font panels - 3 drawn outlines

You'll need: made-to-measure cover to go round the pool, means of decorating it - paint / tissue paper / cloth to collage

What symbol is important for baptism today? Decorate the ' panels' with this symbol

Talk about: Early Christians carved wonderful symbols on their fonts. They were sometimes 8-sided, to represent the 8th day of the week - a new day of a new creation!

18. Candlemaking

You'll need: candle kit

Make a candle from the kit as a reminder that you have the light of Christ in you too

Talk about: Light is given to each person being baptised: why do you think that is?

19. Baptism bracelet / keyring

You'll need: thread / elastic, keyring circlets, beads (white, blue, yellow)

Make a bracelet / keyring using one colour of bead for water, one for oil and one for light (eg blue, yellow, white) in repeated patterns

Talk about: the symbols of baptism: water, oil, light.

20. Dove / watersplash cupcake

You'll need: cupcakes, blue icing, cocktail stick, white fondant icing, black writing icing

Cover cupcake with blue icing (water) / older ones can form waves out of fondant icing. Make a fondant dove, adding detail with writing icing; let it 'hover' over the 'water' on top of the stick, stuck into the cupcake. OR make 3D watersplash shapes out of rolled icing.

Talk about: the dove appears in several Bible stories - which ones can you think of?

21. Crossing Red Sea paint blowing picture

You'll need: floor covering, aprons/clothes coverings, paper, paint, paper straws, sand-coloured strip

Make parted Red Sea pictures by blowing blue paint away from central sandy-coloured strip (can have some starfish etc. to stick to sandy strip)

Talk about: the way the people of God passed through water from slavery or death at the hands of the Egyptians on one side to new life in the Promised Land on the other.

22. Asperging rosemary

You'll need: hyssop or rosemary, twine/wool/ thread, water

make bundles of rosemary/hyssop with nicely braided ends made from wool or cotton and use to asperge

Talk about: what sprinkling with water symbolises in the church. How does it feel to be sprinkled with water?

23. Godparent cards/activity

You'll need: Cardmaking equipment

Activity for Godparents, to help them think about their role and fill out a Godparent card; renewing commitment to your own godchildren. A godchild could make a card to send to their godparent or sponsor.

Talk about: (without inducing guilt for godparents who feel they have been less than perfect) how godparents and godchildren can support each other, pray for each other, love each other: making and sending a card is a great start!

24. Music - singing zone

25. Makaton signing zone

26. Labyrinth zone

27. Diddy Disciples - session on Jesus Baptism

28. Godly Play retelling of Jesus Baptism

29. Christian Aid water activity and prayer