



*Copper or brass jug for pouring the water into the font*

## BAPTISM

Baptisms (or christenings) mark the beginning of a Christian's journey with God, as they are welcomed into the church family and given the sacrament of God's grace. A child or adult stands by the font and the priest blesses water and then pours it over their head in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, cleansing them from all which is not pleasing to God and praying for the Spirit to lead them as they grow in faith.

The water is poured from a shell to signify that the baptism candidate is beginning their early pilgrimage as a Christian. Medieval pilgrims wore the symbol of the cockle-shell on their hats.



*Dating from 1888  
this Mother of  
pearl baptism shell  
with a silver  
handle shaped of  
an engraved cross.  
Designed by  
Herbert Edwin  
Mills for James  
and Willis*