

# What is the Trinity and why is it important for Christians?

## Wonderful words

**Trinity:** The Christian belief that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit; three in one

**Holy Spirit:** the third person of the Trinity; God's power on earth

**Messiah:** a saviour from God promised in the Hebrew texts

**John the Baptist:** Jesus' cousin, a prophet for told of the coming Messiah and who baptised people in readiness for this.

**Believer's Baptism:** a ceremony that welcomes a young person or adult into the Christian Church who has made the choice for themselves to become a Christian.

**Father:** the first person of the Trinity, who created everything

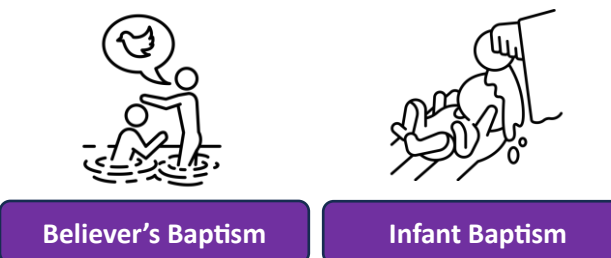
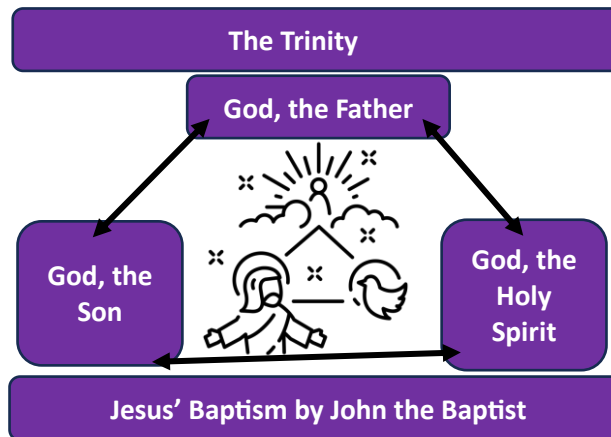
**Jesus:** The second person of the Trinity or the Son; God in the flesh

**Scripture:** the title given to the writings of Christianity, the Bible

**Infant Baptism:** a ceremony that welcomes a baby into the Christian Church

**Denomination:** a branch of the Christian church

## So how does it all work?



## Important information

At the time of Jesus many people were waiting for someone to come from God who would save them and to heal the rift between them and God and they called this person the **Messiah**.

Jesus' cousin was a man called **John the Baptist**. He told the people about the coming Messiah and baptised them, so they were ready for the Messiah's arrival. This is why he is called John the Baptist. The water symbolised the washing away of sin.

Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist in the River Jordan to show that Jesus was the Messiah, and this story can be found in **scripture**. At Jesus' baptism a dove appeared, and God's voice was heard to say that Jesus was his son, and he was pleased with him.

These events show the Christian belief in the **Trinity**, a belief in God the **Father**, God the son, Jesus, and God the **Holy Spirit**. This is a very important belief for Christians.

When people join Christianity, they are baptised using water just as Jesus was. Different Christian groups or **denominations** will perform baptism differently. Some will have an **infant baptism** for a baby, and some will wait until a person can decide to become a Christian themselves and this is called a **believer's baptism**.