

Philip's Mummy, Daddy and little brother Tom were all waiting for him. "Hurry, please, we need to arrive in time to welcome baby Matthew into the family of Jesus," said Mummy. "Ready at last," Mummy said, when Philip came downstairs. "We must not be late. Auntie Linda and Uncle Paul are Matthew's godparents, they will be waiting for us."

"What's godparents?" asked Philip.

"Godparents," said Mummy, "promise to help the baby's mummy and daddy to teach their baby to know Jesus and grow to be his friend. You can stand with Daddy and me and watch what we do and listen to what the priest says."

Philip, Tom, Matthew, Mummy and Daddy all arrived at church on time.

"We have all come here today to welcome Matthew into the family of Jesus, here at St Paul's Church," said Father Devine.

Philip and Tom stayed close to Mummy and Daddy who were standing with Auntie Linda and Uncle Paul and the new baby round the baptismal font. They watched Father Devine pick up a little shell and dip it into the water. Everyone was so quiet when he poured water on little Matthew's head.

"Matthew, I baptise you, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," he said. Matthew began to cry very loudly and Philip wondered why everyone was smiling.

Then Auntie Linda put a white shawl round Matthew and Father Devine said, "Receive this white garment."

Philip looked at the candle his Uncle Paul was holding. He knew that they would take this candle home with them and keep it for Matthew.

"Let's all clap to welcome Matthew," Philip heard Father Devine saying. He clapped very hard.

"Mummy, did people clap to welcome me?" Philip asked.

"Of course they did," said Mummy.

After church, everyone went to their house for a welcome party.

"Is it Matthew's birthday?" said Philip.

"It's a kind of birthday," said Daddy. "It's a very special day, when everyone celebrates Matthew's welcome into our Church family. This is Matthew's beginning in our Church family. That's why so many people are here. Father Devine is coming too."