



THE BIBLE AND SACRAMENTS

John 14: 6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (ESV)

Here are the key signs and symbols, and their meanings used by clergy in administering the seven sacraments.



Laying on of hands

From ancient times, the laying on of hands was the sign of calling down the Holy Spirit.



Oil

For the Jewish people, our ancestors in faith, anointing with oil meant setting the person apart for a particular mission.



Fire/Light

In the Bible, fire and light are symbols of God's purifying presence.



Bread

Bread is life, wheat is grown and ground, transformed by human work to make bread.



Wine

Wine is joy. Grapes are grown and crushed, transformed by human hands to make wine.



Water

The early Christians were baptised in rivers or large fountains of water. This symbolised a kind of drowning to one's old life.



White Garment

White is the colour of Christian baptism. It symbolises the cleansing of the person from all sin.

