

THANKSGIVING FOR THE BIRTH OF A BABY

Priest: Do you receive these children as a gift from God?

Parents: We do.

Priest: Do you wish to give thanks to God and seek his blessing?

Parents: We do.

Priest: God our creator,
we thank you for the wonder of new life
and for the mystery of human love.
We thank you for all whose support and skill
surround and sustain the beginning of life.
We thank you that we are known to you by name
and loved by you from all eternity.
We thank you for Jesus Christ,
who has opened to us the way of love.
We praise you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

All: Blessed be God for ever.

(The priest may take the child.)

Priest: As Jesus took children in his arms and blessed them,
so now we ask God's blessing on *N*.

Heavenly Father, we praise you for *his/her* birth;
surround *him/her* with your blessing
that *he/she* may know your love,
be protected from evil,
and know your goodness all *his/her* days.

(When all the children have been prayed for)

May they learn to love all that is true,
grow in wisdom and strength
and, in due time, come through faith and baptism
to the fullness of your grace;
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

(The priest prays for the parents)

May God the Father of all bless these parents
and give them grace to love and care for their children.
As Jesus knew love and discipline within a human family,
may these children grow in strength and wisdom.
As Mary knew the joys and pains of motherhood,
give these parents your sustaining grace and love;
grant them wisdom, patience and faith,
help them to provide for the children's needs
and, by their example,
reveal the love and truth that are in Jesus Christ.
Amen.

A copy of a Gospel may be presented, with these words

Receive this book.
It is the good news of God's love.
Take it as your guide.

The priest may address the supporting friends and say

Will you do all that you can to help and support *N and M* in
the bringing up of *N*?

All: With the help of God, we will.

The priest may address the wider family and friends and say

Will you do all that you can to help and support this family?

All: With the help of God, we will.

This prayer may be said by the parents (or by the whole congregation):

**God our creator,
we thank you for the gift of these children,
entrusted to our care.
May we be patient and understanding,
ready to guide and to forgive,
so that through our love
they may come to know your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**