

A FORM OF BENEDICTION OF MARRIED PERSONS

The Priest shall say unto the man and the woman,

FORASMUCH as our Lord hath said, What God hath joined together let not man put asunder, and forasmuch as ye have been joined together in Holy Matrimony, and have now come hither to ask for the blessing of the Church thereon, I ask you both whether ye are willing to promise by the help of God to fulfil the obligations which Christian marriage demandeth.

Then shall the Priest say unto the man,

N. DOST thou promise to love this thy wife, to comfort her, honour and keep her, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all other, to keep thee only unto her, so long as ye both shall live?

The man shall answer,

I do.

Then shall the Priest say unto the woman,

N. DOST thou promise to love this thy husband, to comfort, honour, and keep him, in sickness and in health; and, forsaking all other, to keep thee only unto him, so long as ye both shall live?

The woman shall answer,

I do.

The Priest.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

OUR Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

Priest. O Lord, save thy servant, and thy handmaid;

Answer. Who put their trust in thee.

Priest. O Lord, send them help from thy holy place;

Answer. And evermore defend them.

Priest. Be unto them a tower of strength;

Answer. From the face of their enemy.

Priest. O Lord, hear our prayer;
Answer. And let our cry come unto thee.

Priest.

O ETERNAL God, Creator and Preserver of all mankind, giver of all spiritual grace, the author of everlasting life: Send thy blessing upon these thy servants, this man and this woman, whom we bless in thy Name; that, living faithfully together, they may surely perform and keep the vow and covenant betwixt them made, (whereof this ring given and received is a token and pledge,) and may ever remain in perfect love and peace together, and live according to thy laws; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O GOD of our fathers, bless these thy servants, and sow the seed of eternal life in their hearts; that whatsoever in thy holy word they shall profitably learn, they may in deed fulfil the same; that so, obeying thy will and alway being in safety under thy protection, they may abide in thy love unto their lives' end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

This prayer next following shall be omitted where the woman is past child-bearing.

O ALMIGHTY God, Creator of mankind, who only art the well-spring of life: Bestow upon these thy servants, if it be thy will, the gift and heritage of children; and grant that they may see their children brought up in thy faith and fear to the honour and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

O GOD, who hast taught us that it should never be lawful to put asunder those whom thou by Matrimony hadst made one, and hast consecrated the state of Matrimony to such an excellent mystery, that in it is signified and represented the spiritual marriage and unity betwixt Christ and his Church: Look mercifully upon these thy servants, that both this man may love his wife, according to thy word, (as Christ did love his spouse the Church, who gave himself for it,) and also that this woman may love her husband faithfully, and in all quietness, sobriety, and peace, be a follower of holy and godly matrons. O Lord, bless them both, and grant them to inherit thy everlasting kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

And the Priest shall add this Blessing.

GOD the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Ghost, bless, preserve, and keep you; the Lord mercifully with his favour look upon you, and so fill you with all spiritual benediction and grace, that ye may so live together in this life, that in the world to come ye may have life everlasting. *Amen.*