**Hope 25 Blessings St John’s Kalgoorlie Open House 5th April 2025**

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**BLESSINGS**

**What is a blessing?**

A blessing is a prayer that asks God to bless someone or something. Anglicans mostly pray for God to bless people, but we also pray for God to bless the water at a baptism / christening, the bread and wine at the Eucharist / Holy Communion, and the rings at a wedding. “Sanctify” means “make holy” and is another word for “bless”. Blessing is asking for a person to be fully alive, fully human, fully equipped to do what comes next for them. Blessing asks for God’s life and goodness and holiness to be in a person. We can also dedicate and consecrate things and people for special purposes. Often the priest will make the sign of the cross when speaking a blessing, because the cross reminds us of Jesus Christ, the person who brings God’s best blessings to the human race, at enormous cost to himself.

The most famous Anglican blessing comes at the end of a Holy Communion service and goes like this:

The blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Blessing a baby or child**

**Our priest will gladly bless your baby or child in person today! Please ask!**

*Our prayer book has this blessing for a baby or child:*

*Names*, may God be gracious to you and bless you.
May the Lord lead you to know and love him,
experiencing the fullness of life
that is in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Any parent or grandparent can pray these blessings for a baby or child, any time. Please ask if you would like a copy of this blessing to take home.*

God bless you
growing and learning,
laughing and crying,
praying and praising,
sleeping and waking,
in the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God bless you
with our love and Jesus’ love.
The peace of Holy Wisdom rest on you,
the grace of Jesus Christ shine in you,
and the power of the Spirit grow in you,
now and for ever. Amen.

**Blessing a parent or grandparent**

**Our priest will gladly bless parents or grandparents today in person! Please ask!**

*Our prayer book has this blessing for parents:*

God our Father,
thank you for blessing *Names* with the gift of a *son / daughter*.
Give them wisdom, love and patience
in their relationship with one another
and with their children.
Guide them with your word
in the fellowship of your Church
and fill them with your Holy Spirit,
so that they may serve you
and give you praise and honour;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Here are some more prayers for mothers and fathers, and for older people including grandparents – please ask if you would like a copy to take home.*

*A blessing for mothers*

God bless all the mothers:
sleep-deprived mums of babies and toddlers,
strategic-planning mums of children and teenagers,
big-hearted foster mums and adoptive mums,
adoring grannies, nannas and godmothers.
Bless all the mums with patience to teach their children,
wisdom to guide them, strength to protect them,
and courage to toss them out of the nest at the right time.
Top up our mothers’ love with your heavenly love
that carries us from birth to death and beyond. Amen.

*A blessing for fathers*

God bless all the fathers,
and make them more like you—
the birth fathers and the nappy-changing fathers,
the foster fathers and adoptive fathers,
the godfathers and the grandfathers,
the praying and bible-story-telling fathers,
the teenage-taxi-driving fathers,
the hard-working and the out-of-work,
the stay-at-home and the far-away,
the single-parent and the shared-parenting fathers,
the missing and the muddled, and the worried fathers too.
Teach all of us to be your obedient children
until your will is done on earth as it is in heaven,
in Jesus’ name. Amen.

*A blessing for older people / grandparents*

God bless the older people of our community.
Bless the grannies and nannas, the grandads and pops,
the aunties and uncles
who tell their stories and share their wisdom.
Bless the local Aboriginal elders
who keep language and culture alive for all of us.
Bless all the groups where old and young can have fun together,
working, playing and learning, in art, music, sport and faith.
Bless all our older people with little kids to play with,
teenagers to argue with,grownups to work with,
and friends to laugh with.
Help all of us to grow old with love in our hearts
and a strong community around us,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Blessing a couple**

**Our priest will gladly bless couples in person today! Please ask!**

*Our prayer book has this classic blessing of a couple at a wedding:*

God the Father lovingly enfold you,
God the Son grace your home and table,
God the Holy Spirit crown you with joy and peace.
The Lord bless you and keep you in eternal life. Amen.

*Or a simple blessing for any couple, married or not, could go like this:*

God bless you with steadfast loyalty,
and courage to walk together
through good times and hard times.
God bless you with love that grows
to embrace friends and family,
neighbours and strangers.
God bless you with hearts that are gentle,
words that are kind,
actions that are generous,
and lasting love that not even death can conquer,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Or this is a blessing for 21st-century couples – please ask if you would like a copy to take home:*

May God give you respect
for the ways you differ from each other,
and may you both be strong and kind,
creative and clever, wise and gentle,
each in your own different ways.

May God give you trust in each other
in good times and hard times.
May God give you words and ways
to show how you treasure each other
in small things and great things.

May God give you patience with each other
when you change, when times change,
when other people change around you.

May God bless you with grace to forgive and be forgiven
when you hurt each other,
and courage to stand side by side and work together
when trouble and challenge come to you.

May you see the face of Jesus Christ in each other,
recognise the love of the Holy Spirit in each other,
find the peace of God in each other.

And may the Holy One,
 who made you equally in the image of God
set you free from gender stereotypes,
because you have put on Christ,
and in Christ there is no longer male and female,
but Christ is all, and in all.
Amen.

**Blessing a single person**

**Our priest will gladly bless single people in person today – please ask!**

Christianity is sometimes counter-cultural, and this can be an example! Single people can easily become invisible in a society that celebrates romance and couples. But all of us are single for part of our life, and some of us are single all of our life, and as far as we know, Jesus Christ was never married. Singleness is a simple fact for some, a struggle for others, and a joyful freedom for still others.

*Here is a blessing for single people – please ask if you would like a copy to take home.*

*A blessing for a single person*

God bless you
with health and holiness
of body, mind and spirit,
as you live your single life.
God bless you
with friends who treasure you,
networks that recognise you,
and a community that encourages you.
God bless you with many strong relationships
where you can love, and be loved,
with integrity, honour, safety, and grace.
God bless you with the faithful friendship of Jesus,
now and for ever. Amen.

**Blessing a family**

**Our priest will gladly bless your family members in person today! Please ask!**

*Families come in many different forms, some with just mum, dad and kids – others multi-generational, blended, step-families, inlaws, cousins, foster family, adoptive family and more.*

*Our prayer book has this prayer for our homes*:

Visit, Lord, our homes
and drive far from them all the snares of the evil one:
let your holy angels dwell in them
to preserve us in peace
and may your blessing rest upon us evermore;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Please ask if you would like a copy of this blessing to take home.*

*A blessing for our families*

God bless our families
of every shape and size.
When we are living well together,
bless our family with love.
When we are struggling with each other,
bless our family with understanding and forgiveness.
When we are separated, broken, or in pain,
bless our family with healing,
and hope that new love can come to us.
When we are growing and changing,
bless us with courage and imagination
to find new ways to be together,
trusting that you love us all,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.