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| **The Blessing of a Home** |
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| *The following simple rite is provided for the Blessing of a Home, which includes a choice of alternative prayers. Care and sensitivity should be taken to choose prayers and bible readings appropriate to the occasion and personal circumstances. Additional resources are provided in the Appendix, including:*   * *Prayers of Blessing of individual rooms* * *Suggested Bible Readings* * *Intercessions* * *Blessing of a home in the context of the Holy Eucharist* |
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| **STRUCTURE**    ***Gathering***  Greeting  Words of Introduction  Opening Prayer    ***Liturgy of the Word***  Bible Reading(s)  (Homily)    ***Blessing***  (Intercessions and) Prayer for Blessing the Home  (Presentation of a Bible and Cross)    ***Concluding Prayer***  Lord’s Prayer  The Grace or Blessing |
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| **THE ORDER OF SERVICE** |
|  |
| ***Gathering*** |
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| *The celebrant greets all present:*    Peace be to this house and all who live here.  **Blessed be God for ever!** |
|  |
| ***Words of Introduction***  *One of the following words of introduction may be used appropriate to the context.* |
|  |
| I.  As you begin a new stage of your life (together) in this place let us make our home with Christ who has come to live among us. Through the power of the indwelling Spirit let us pray that the Lord will protect all who live here and fill them with joy. May this home become a holy dwelling place of the Lord, a sacred space of love and welcome, hospitality and homeliness, intimacy and care. |

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| II.  Jesus promised that when two are three are gathered in his name, he will be with them. Assured of Christ's loving presence, let us ask God's blessing upon this home and all who live here. Whether alone or with others may they know the wonders of his love and the assurance of his presence in every area of their lives. |
|  |
| III.  Jesus said, 'When you pray, go into your own private place, and pray to your Father in secret who will reward you.' As we gather here to seek God's blessing upon this house and home, let us pray that we may be at home with the Lord, that the intimacy of his love will transform us and all whom we welcome in the Lord's name. |
|  |
| IV.  We are not worthy to have the Lord come under our roof, but we know that if only he says the word we shall be healed. Let us listen to his Word and invite Jesus to bring his gifts of healing and love, that this home may be a place where all can grow and flourish in God's love and be a household of faith, a place where Christ is welcomed and worshipped. |
|  |
| V.  Jesus invited himself to the home of Zachaeus where he sat at his table, ate with him and talked with him, declaring that, today, salvation has come to this house. As we rejoice in Christ's saving work, let us ask God's blessing upon this home, that we may experience the benefits of his salvation which has come to this house. |
|  |
| VI.  Let us build our house upon the solid rock of attentiveness to Jesus, listening to him and making room for him in our lives and in our home. Let us stand firm in faith, asking for God's protection for all who live here and all whom are welcomed through the doors of this house. May they know the joy of God's love, for in him we live and move and have our being. |
|  |
| ***Opening Prayer*** |
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| *One of the following prayers is used appropriate to the context* |
|  |
| I.  Lord God, you sent your Son to live among us  and you have filled us with the Spirit who dwells within us.  Help us to be attentive to your word.  Whether at rest or at work, alone or with others,  may we have a deep awareness of our fellowship in the Church  that we may live as a temple of the Holy Spirit,  a household of faith,  a spiritual building for the Lord,  our Saviour Jesus Christ the Lord.  **Amen.** |

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| II.  Loving Father,  faithful to your promise, you poured out your Spirit upon the apostles as they gathered in prayer at Pentecost.  May we, who devote ourselves to prayer  and wait patiently upon you  know the power of your Spirit in our lives.  Open our hearts to accept the words of your Son  so that this home may be a place of prayer and devotion,  a household of faith,  confident in your love;  through Christ our Lord.  **Amen.** |
|  |
| III.  Loving God,  we seek you out, only to discover that you are already with us,  we utter prayer and discover that we have already been heard.  May the life we lead, behind and beyond these walls,  be true to the gospel message.  May all whom we meet, especially the lost and forsaken,  be carried home rejoicing to the fold of your Church  and come to know the joy of living in the house of the Lord forever; through our Saviour Jesus Christ.  **Amen.** |
|  |
| IV.  *Appropriate for use when a family have experienced troubles.*  Loving Father,  look upon this family, gathered together in your presence.  After the hurt and harm they have experienced  help them know the comforting presence of your Spirit  who soothes our pain and heals our ills.  As we ask your blessing upon their home,  dispel fear,  cast out sin,  bring light to the darkness  and kindle in us the fire of your love.  We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen.** |

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| ***Liturgy of the Word*** |
| *One or more readings from the Appendix. The following order may be used.* |
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| ***First Reading***  A reading from the book of Joshua (24:14-17)    Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”  This is the word of the Lord.  **Thanks be to God.** |
| ***Psalm 84:1-4,8-12***  **[R. Blessed are they who dwell in your house:**  **they will always be praising you]** |
|  |
| How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!  My soul has a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord;  my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. **R.** |
|  |
| The sparrow has found her a house  and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:  at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.  Blessed are they who dwell in your house:  they will always be praising you. **R.** |
|  |
| Blessed are those whose strength is in you:  in whose heart are the highways to Zion.  O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;  listen, O God of Jacob:  behold our defender, O God,  and look upon the face of your anointed. **R.** |
|  |
| For one day in your courts:  is better than a thousand.  I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God:  than dwell in the tents of ungodliness. **R.** |
|  |
| For the Lord God is both sun and shield;  he will give grace and glory:  no good thing shall the Lord withhold  from those who walk with integrity.  O Lord God of hosts:  blessed are those who put their trust in you. **R.** |
|  |
| ***Gospel*** |
|  |
| Listen to the gospel of Christ according to St Luke (10:38-42)  **Glory to you, O Lord.** |
|  |
| Now as the disciples went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord’s feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, “Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.” But the Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.” |
|  |
| This is the Gospel of the Lord.  **Praise to you, O Christ.** |
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| *A brief homily may be given.* |
| *Intercessions may follow (see Appendix) or the rite continues with the Prayer of Blessing* |
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| ***Prayer of Blessing*** |
|  |
| God of love,  hear our prayer for this family (or N.)  who have/has welcomed us into their/his/her home to give you praise, listen to your word,  (celebrate the breaking of bread)  and seek your blessing.  Bless this home that it may be a place of hospitality and love,  as they welcome the one who comes to make his home with us,  your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen.** |
|  |
| ***Presentation of Bible and Cross*** |
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| *A bible and a cross or crucifix may be presented or placed in a central place, accompanied by the following words:* |
|  |
| ***Presentation of Bible*** |
|  |
| The word of God is living and active,  sharper than any two-edged sword.  May these Holy Scriptures have a valued place in this home,  like a light on a lampstand shining throughout  and scattering the darkness before you. |
|  |
| ***Presentation of a Cross or Crucifix*** |
|  |
| Lord God,  we glory in the cross of Christ,  a sign of your wisdom and power.  May this cross/crucifix be a constant sign and reminder  of the power of your love,  a welcome sign to all who visit.  May it serve as a symbol to them that this is a household of faith  with Christ at its heart;  through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** |
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| ***Concluding Prayers*** |
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| ***Lord’s Prayer*** |
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| Let us pray as Jesus taught us:  **Our Father…** |
|  |
| *Either:* |
|  |
| The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ  and the love of God  and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. **Amen.**  *Or:*  The Lord bless us  and protect us from evil  and keep us in eternal life.  **Amen.** |
|  |
| *Or:* |
|  |
| The Lord be with you.  **And also with you.** |
|  |
| The peace of God which is beyond all understanding  guard your hearts in the knowledge and love of God  and of his Son Jesus Christ  and the blessing of Almighty God,  the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirt  be amongst you and remain with you always.  **Amen.** |

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| **APPENDIX** |
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| 1. Prayers of Blessing of individual rooms |
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| 2. Suggested Bible Readings |
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| 3. Intercessions |
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| 4. Blessing of a Home in Context of the Holy Eucharist |
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| **1. Prayers of Blessing of Individual Rooms** |
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| *If individual rooms are to be blessed then, after the bible reading(s), the following prayers be used in place of the Intercessions and General Prayer of Blessing. When all have returned to the room in which they had gathered, the celebration continues with the Presentation of a Bible and Cross.* |
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| *The Bible verses for each room are for reflection and insight – although, if appropriate, they may also be read before each prayer.* |
|  |
| ***Front Door / Hallway*** |
|  |
| ‘Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me' (Revelation 3:20) |
|  |
| Loving God,  the Lord Jesus said,  'Ask and it shall be given to you,  seek and you will find,  knock and the door shall be opened to you.'  We ask your blessing on this place,  that in welcoming others we may welcome Christ,  and, in welcoming Christ, our home may be filled with love.  Protect us in our going out and coming in,  that we may encounter Christ in the world  and be at home with him in this place;  through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** |

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| ***Living Room/Lounge*** |
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| While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:6-7) |
|  |
| God our Father,  when your Son Jesus Christ was born into an earthly home,  there was no room for him in the living space.  May we always make room in this house  and home for Jesus the Lord to come and live among us.  Bless this living room with the warmth of your Spirit:  comfort us in sorrow,  and fill us with the joy of your presence.  Gather your family together to be a dwelling place for the Lord  so that whether we sit or rise, rest or play,  we may set our eyes on the one who has come to dwell with us,  your Son our Lord Jesus Christ.  **Amen.** |
|  |
| ***Kitchen*** |
|  |
| Elijah said, “For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth.” She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah. (1 Kings 17:14-16). |
|  |
| Lord God of all creation,  you provide us with good things to eat and drink  and care for our physical and spiritual needs alike.  Bless this kitchen with the fire of your love  that the blessings we receive and the grace we experience  will be pressed down into our laps and overflow.  May we find here sustenance for our body  and always be mindful of the needs of others.  Prepare us for the banquet of heaven  and seat us at the table of the saints;  Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen.** |
|  |
| ***Dining Room*** |
|  |
| On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" He said, "Go into the city to a certain man, and say to him, "The Teacher says, ‘My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.' "So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal. (Matthew 26:17-19) |

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| Lord God,  your Son Jesus Christ sat at table  and ate with those to whom he ministered.  They listened to his words and enjoyed his loving presence.  Whether in the dim glow or the bright light  may this room be enlightened by your presence.  May there always be room for your word in this place  and when empty of guests and company  help us to be aware of your presence and our fellowship in the Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen.** |
|  |
| ***Bathroom*** |
|  |
| Jesus said, 'When you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.' (Matthew 6:16-18) (Mathew 6:17-18) |
|  |
| Lord God, you have made us the dwelling place of your Holy Spirit,  a temple of the Lord.  Bless this room with the power of your love,  that in seeking to be refreshed and revived,  we may care for ourselves  and be cleansed and renewed in body, mind and spirit.  Help us to know that we are a beautiful creation,  wonderfully made,  to the praise and glory of your name;  through Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen.** |
|  |
| ***Landing and Stairs*** |
|  |
| And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!" And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." (Genesis 28: 12, 16-17) |
|  |
| God of our Ancestors,  when Jacob fell asleep to gain rest for his tired body and wearied mind,  he dreamed of angels ascending and descending.  May our sights always be set on heaven,  with our eyes and hearts raised to the heights  from which angels descend  and to which they carry our prayers and offerings.  Bless this stairway (and landing)  and keep us safe,  so that whether ascending or descending  we may feel the breath and play of your Spirit  and know that we are surrounded by a heavenly host;  through Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen.** |
|  |
| ***Bedroom*** |
|  |
| Jesus said, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head” (Matthew 8:20) |
|  |
| In vain is our earlier rising and our going later to rest, Lord God,  for you give sleep to your beloved.  Bless this room with your overshadowing love.  May our dreams and visions of the night be bathed in light and tranquillity  so that, refreshed and revived,  we may rise to greet a new day  and embrace the wonders of your love;  Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen.** |
|  |
| ***Bedroom*** |
|  |
| If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night," even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you. (Psalm 139:11-12) |
|  |
| God our Father,  you know when we are awake or at rest,  you understand our thoughts from afar.  Bless this room and hold us in your love  that awake we may watch with Christ  and asleep we may rest in peace;  through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen.** |
|  |
| ***A Guest Bedroom*** |
|  |
| As they came near the village to which they were going, Jesus walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. (Luke 24:28-30) |
|  |
| Lord God,  when the evening is upon us and the darkness descends  may we know the presence of your Son who comes to stay with us.  Bless this bedroom with the radiance of your love.  Protect all who sleep and cover them with the shadow of your wings.  We ask this through Christ our Lord.  **Amen.** |

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| ***A Child's Bedroom*** |
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| Calling to him a child, Jesus put him in the midst of them, and said, “Unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the Kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 18:2-3) |
|  |
| God our loving Father,  your Son Jesus Christ gave us children as an image of your kingdom.  Bless this bedroom that it may be a place of comfort and delight,  of rest and play.  Whether asleep or awake may these children (this child)  always know how much they are loved  and may the angels watch over them and guard them in peace;  through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen.** |
|  |
| ***Study*** |
|  |
| 'Did not our hearts burn within us as we talked on the road while he opened to us the scriptures' (Luke 24:32) |
|  |
| God our Father,  you give meaning to our work,  enlighten our minds  and support us all the day long.  Bless this room where we attend to the daily business of our lives  and deepen our knowledge of your world  that ever mindful of your presence we may give praise to you  and know the wonders of your word and wisdom.  Through Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen.** |
|  |
| ***Utility Room*** |
|  |
| In a large house there are utensils not only of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for special use, some for ordinary. All who cleanse themselves of the things I have mentioned will become special utensils, dedicated and useful to the owner of the house, ready for every good work (2 Timothy 2:20-21) |
|  |
| God our Father,  the rhythms of life flow with the breath of your Spirit  and times and seasons are filled with your love,  so that all of life becomes prayer.  Bless this room with your wisdom and grace  that attending to the necessary work of life,  we may be efficient and timely  and offer the work of our hands in joyful praise of you;  through Christ our Lord.  **Amen.** |

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| ***Garden / Patio / Yard*** |
|  |
| Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,  or take the path that sinners tread,  or sit in the seat of scoffers;  but their delight is in the law of the Lord,  and on his law they meditate day and night.  They are like trees planted by streams of water,  which yield their fruit in its season,  and their leaves do not wither.  In all that they do, they prosper.  (Psalm 1:1-4) |
|  |
| Lord God,  your apostle Paul has taught us  that we, the church, are God's garden.  May we, the fellow workers of the Lord,  find here a place of beauty and wonder,  refreshment and rest,  of leisure and loveliness,  as we share in the work of your creation  and watch with wonder the marvellous work of your hands;  through Christ our Lord.  **Amen.** |
|  |
| ***Attic space*** |
|  |
| Jesus said, “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.” (Matthew 6:19-21) |
|  |
| God our Father,  you guard us and protect us,  and cover us in the shadow of your wings.  Bless this space with the brightness of your love.  May our lives be filled with thanksgiving for all we have received,  that storing up treasures in heaven  our heart may be set on your kingdom of love;  through Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen.** |

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| ***Garden Shed / Workspace*** |
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| Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us,  and prosper for us the work of our hands— O prosper the work of our hands (Psalm 90:17) |
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| God of all creation,  you have called us to care for all you have made  and given us gifts to carry out your work in the world.  Bless this garden shed  that all who work within may know your loving care  and the worth you bring to the work of their hands.  Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** |
|  |
| ***Garage*** |
|  |
| Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Philippians 3:20) |
|  |
| Lord God,  you accompany us on our journey through life  for we are citizens of the heavenly homeland,  and given a pledge of eternal life.  Bless this garage  that all who come and go may travel in safety  and return in peace,  knowing your protection and presence in their lives;  through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** |
| **2. Suggested Bible Readings** |
|  |
| ***Old Testament Readings*** |
|  |
| *Gen 18.1–10a (The Lord appeared to Abraham … as he sat at the entrance to his tent)*  *Genesis 28 12,16-17 (This is the house of God and the Gate of Heaven)*  *Jos 24.14–17 (As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord)*  *Sir 4.11–16 (The Lord blesses the place [Wisdom] enters)* |
|  |
| ***Psalms*** |
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| *Ps 23 (I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever)*  *Ps 84 (Happy are they who put their trust in you)*  *Ps 112.1–7 (Happy are they who fear the Lord)*  *Ps 127.1–5 (Unless the Lord builds the house, their labour is in vain who build it)*  *Ps 139 (You know my resting and my rising)* |
| ***New Testament Readings*** |
|  |
| *Rom 12.9–21 (Extend hospitality to strangers)*  *Eph 4.25–32 (Be kind to one another)*  *Galatians 6:10 (The household of faith)*  *Acts 17:21-28 (In him we live and move and have our being)* |
|  |
| ***Gospel Readings*** |
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| *Matthew 26:17-19 (Preparation for the Passover)*  *Mark 3:19 (Then he went home and the crowds gathered so that he could not even eat)*  *Mark 3:27 (Parable of the strong man's house)*  *Mk 1.29–30 (They entered the house of Simon and Andrew)*  *Luke 1:26-38 (The angel Gabriel visits Mary)*  *Luke 1:39-45 (Mary enters the house of Elizabeth)*  *Luke 2:41-52 (Did you not know that I would be in my Father's house?)*  *Luke 4:38 (Simon's house)*  *Lk 10.5–9 (Say, ‘Peace to this house!’)*  *Lk 10.38–42 (A woman named Martha welcomed [Jesus] into her home)*  *Lk 19.1–9 (Zacchaeus, … I must stay at your house today)*  *Lk 24.28–32 (Stay with us, because it is almost evening)* |

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| **Intercessions** |
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| *The following or other appropriate intercessions may be used after the readings and before the Blessing of the Home.* |
|  |
| ***Introduction*** |
| Let us pray in the name of Jesus the Lord, who lived in an earthly home at Nazareth. |
|  |
| ***Petitions:*** |
| For the Church, the household of faith, let us pray to the Lord. |
|  |
| **R. Lord, hear our prayer.** |
|  |
| For those who are homeless and have nowhere to lay their head, let us pray to the Lord. R. |
|  |
| For all whose home is not a safe or comforting place, let us pray to the Lord. R. |
|  |
| For all who live and work in this community, let us pray to the Lord. R. |
|  |
| For travellers, refugees and all who are far from home, let us pray to the Lord. R. |
|  |
| For our family, friends and all who are dear to us, let us pray to the Lord. R. |
|  |
| For all who are lonely and isolated in their own homes, let us pray to the Lord. R. |
|  |
| For communities who live in fear and under the shadow of violence or war, let us pray to the Lord. R. |
|  |
| For all who make this house their home, let us pray to the Lord. R. |
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| The Intercessions continue with the Prayer of Blessing |
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| **Blessing of a Home in the Context of the Holy Eucharist** |
|  |
| *The Blessing of a Home may be celebrated within the context of the Holy Eucharist. It is celebrated as above (with the addition of a Penitential Rite after the Words of Introduction). The liturgy continues (after the Blessing and/or Presentation of a Bible and Cross) with the Sharing of the Peace. Any of the forms and prayers of the Holy Eucharist (2004) may be used according to the season of the church’s year or the personal circumstances of those involved.* |
|  |
| ***Gathering*** |
|  |
| In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.  **Amen.** |
|  |
| *The celebrant greets all present* |
|  |
| Peace be to this house and all who live here.  **Blessed be God for ever!** |
|  |
| ***Words of Introduction*** |
|  |
| ***Penitential Rite*** |
|  |
| ***Collect Prayer*** |
|  |
| ***Liturgy of the Word*** |
|  |
| Readings (Homily)  (Intercessions and) Prayer of Blessing (or Blessing of Individual rooms)  (Presentation of Bible and Cross) |
|  |
| ***Liturgy of the Eucharist*** |
| *The Eucharist continues as usual with the Sharing of Peace* |
| ***Post Communion Prayer*** |
|  |
| God our Father,  Jesus has opened the Scriptures to us  and we have recognised him in the breaking of bread.  May we always be aware of his loving presence and protection in this home  and proclaim him as the Risen One to all whom we meet.  Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.  **Amen.** |