

## PRAYER OF BLESSING OF MARRIED COUPLES

*On a particular Sunday during the year or on the Sunday that falls within National Marriage Week (7-14 February) parishes may like to invite married couples to receive a particular blessing upon them and their families. The blessing takes place after the homily.*

**Celebrant:** In the tender plan of his providence, God our almighty Father has given married love, its faithfulness, (and its fruitfulness), a special significance in the history of salvation. Let us therefore call upon him, saying:

**Response:** **Lord, renew in your servants their fidelity to each other.**

Father all-holy, you have made marriage the great symbol of Christ's love for his Church; bestow on these your servants the fullness of your own love. (For this we pray:) **R.**

You live in eternity with the Son and the Holy Spirit in oneness of life and communion of love; grant that these your servants will be mindful of the covenant of love they pledged to each other through the sacrament of marriage and never fail in fidelity. (For this we pray:) **R.**

In your providence you have ordained that all genuinely human experiences should become ways of leading the faithful to share in the mystery of Christ; grant to your servants serenity in good times and bad and the will to stay close to Christ and to live for him alone. (For this we pray:) **R.**

It is your will that married life should be a lesson in Christian living; grant that all husbands and wives may be witnesses to the wonders of your Son's love. (For this we pray:) **R.**

### PRAYER OF BLESSING

*With hands outstretched, the celebrant concludes by saying:*

Almighty and eternal God, you have so exalted the unbreakable bond of marriage that it has become the sacramental sign of your Son's union with the Church as his spouse.

Look with favour on N. and N/these couples, whom you have united in marriage, as they ask for your help and the protection of the Virgin Mary. They pray that in good times and in bad they will grow in love for each other; that they will resolve to be of one heart in the bond of peace.

Lord, in their struggles let them rejoice that you are near to help them; in their needs let them know that you are there to rescue them; in their joys let them see that you are the source and completion of every happiness.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**R. Amen.**