

Child Blessing

People are smudged as they enter.

Parent/s holds a rock for Child to touch/hold and says:

“Before everything, there is the mother of us all.

We are both children of the earth. The earth is my mother, just as she is yours.

Take care of her, be good to her, Tread lightly on her.

There is only one of her, and she is the source of all of our happiness.”

Welcome

I know that (Parent(s)) is delighted that you are here to give them support and encouragement on this day of celebration. We gather here today to witness their commitment to parenthood and to officially welcome a new member into our community.

We are here because of our relationship with (Parent/s), and with (Child), for we are their family and friends, for we are their community. We are the people with whom they celebrate life’s special moments, and to whom they will turn to in times of need. As members of their community, we honour (Parent/s)’s commitment to this new person, who has changed their life forever.

To be a parent forces you to recognize that you are no longer a child yourself. As adults, we look at our children and see ourselves, our own strengths and failings. We feel the temptation to help them succeed where we have not. Instead, we should only see that they do their best and it is all we can ask of them. This we can do, if you love them not for who they may become, but for who they are.

(Child) is their own person, bringing their own unique personality and adding new dimensions to the family unit. (Parent/s) will always find something new to laugh at or admire. As parent/s, they are also aware of the great responsibility that is now theirs. A great deal of their life will be involved in caring for (Child) and guiding them through the many trials of life.

Much like (Child) is a newcomer in this world, we have all been newcomers at one time. And like all of us, (Child) needs us to open our circle and to support them as best we can. Life is not an easy journey, and they will need all of us to welcome and support them to help them thrive and live a good, strong life.

To start the ceremony, we will first light a candle in remembrance of those who would support (Parent/s and Child), but are not able to be here, separated by death or distance.

(As candle is lit for others) We light this candle for all those who cannot be with us today, but who love and care for (Parent/s and Child).

Creating the Sacred Centre

Let us draw toward the centre of all things, where our voices resound throughout all the worlds, and where our magic is strongest.

We are at the centre of all things

Response: (Home of our home)

The Land is firm below our feet

(Home of our home)

The eternal Sea surrounds us

(Home of our home)

The endless Sky stretches out above us

(Home of our home)

By land and sea and sky do we come

By land and sea and sky are we made

By land and sea and sky we are

At the centre of all things

(Home of our home)

Sacred Hallows

Tree

In the centre of all, there is the one tree

Stretching above and below.

Time worn but ever standing

Shelter we find 'neath your branches
Strength we draw from your roots
(tree is watered with essential oils)

Sacred tree, grow within us

Response: Sacred tree, grow within us

Well

In the centre of all, beneath the tree
There is a well
Full of magic and wisdom.
This is the cauldron of Cerridwen,
From which rise the waters of rebirth,
Of transformation and awen.
(well is silvered)

Sacred waters, flow within us

Response: Sacred waters, flow within us

Fire:

In the centre of all, beneath the tree
We light the sacred fire
Bright is the praise that we will give
In kindling the flames of sacrifice
With holy fire we raise our offerings up
Upward to the realms of gods
And pure will our worship be.

(oil is poured on the flames)

Sacred fire, burn within us

Response: Sacred fire, burn within us

Oaths of the Parent/s:

Now, in the center of the worlds, and before all of us as witnesses, we ask you (Parent/s) to make your oaths to (Child). Birth is a transformative experience, and you are now a parent. But only through the daily commitment to these oaths will you truly give your child what they need to live their life to the fullest:

Do you promise to teach (Child) not who or what, but how to love, to trust, to respect, and to dream so that they may truly participate in the remarkable journey that is life?

P: "Yes."

Do you promise to be honest about your triumphs and as well as your missteps so that (Child) will have the valuable opportunity to learn from your example, yet still be free to learn their own lessons in life?

P: "Yes."

Do you promise to value their hopes and dreams and let them know that they will always be welcomed, accepted and loved for who they are and for who they are not?"

P: "Yes."

Do you promise to expose (Child) to a variety of experiences, starting them on the many paths of self-discovery and wonder, instilling in them a sense of curiosity and passion, and the knowledge that they alone have the power to complete themselves?

P: "Yes."

Do you promise to hold them close in your heart always, yet still encourage them to stand on their own when the time comes, so that they may discover their own true self?

P: "Yes."

Blessings of the Godparents:

Could I ask the godparents to step forward?

As the godparents of (Child), I have a few questions to ask of you as well:

Will you do everything in your power to encourage and support (Parent/s) in their parenting role?

(Yes we will)

Will you guide (Child) in her spiritual development and be there for her, to answer her questions about the mysteries of life, as best you can?

(Yes we will)

Will you act as an ally and advisor to (Child) as they make their way through life, and give them love and support unconditionally?

(Yes we will)

You each have unique experience, knowledge and gifts to share with (Child). I would ask you now to step forward and make an individual promise to (Child), in your role as their godparent.

(Each godparent comes forward and gives a “gift”, (such as “ability to see the humour in all things”, “boundless love for nature”, “curiosity about how the world works”... whatever is most suitable for them to give.

Naming

(full name of child), your name was chosen with great care. It was chosen just for you. (Talk about attributes of name). On behalf of the people gathered today, and of your community, I wish that you inherit the best traits of all those who have come before you, your ancestors of blood and of spirit. Learn from the mistakes of those of us who surround you with care and listen to their wisdom. Our wish for you this day is that you will grow into a caring person who is healthy and happy and fulfilled. Above all, we wish to give you what you need to help guide you through your life.

Blessings of the Spirits

We call now upon the spirits that surround (child) with care. We call upon them now to bestow their blessings upon them.

“I call upon the nurturing spirits of (full name), known and unknown, those who feed (child)’s body, mind and soul. Make your presence felt in their life, fill their world with equal parts

abundance and gratitude, let them know no hunger or want. Show yourselves to them in the kindness of strangers and the company of family and friends.”

“I call upon the guardian spirits of (full name), known and unknown, those who keep (Child) from harm and steer them from danger. Make your presence felt in their life, let them feel the comfort of your shield, and the strength of your courage. Show yourselves to them in times of need, and remain ever watchful.”

“I call upon the teacher spirits of (full name), known and unknown, those who guide and conspire to make (Child) wiser and stronger. Make your presence felt in their life, let them feel your guiding hand on their path, and let them know certainty and rightness in their actions. Show yourselves to them in the beauty of the world around us, in the earth and the sky and everyplace between.

We give you these offerings in thanks, dear spirits, that your care will keep (Child) safe and strong, and make her wise.

(offerings are made to the fire)

So be it.”

Offering and Blessing of Chosen Deity (In this case, the mother chose Cerridwen)

(Child), you are named for Cerridwen, she whose cauldron holds the powers of transformation and magic. (Parent/s), in so naming (Child), you are calling upon Cerridwen to watch over (Child), and to confer upon your child the special gifts that Cerridwen holds for her children.

Since a gift calls for a gift, I ask you to make your offering to Cerridwen in thanks for her patronage of your child.

(Parent/s make an offering to the fire)

Blessings of the Waters of Life

In this cauldron, Cerridwen’s cauldron, are the waters of life. These are the waters that feed the world, that flow within us all.

(As waters are poured on child’s head)

I pour these waters on you, (Full name), as a symbol of the common life that flows within you and in the world around you. We welcome you to the community of life on earth and dedicate you to everything which is beautiful and truthful and good.

(Child), we wish you long life and much happiness. May you face all challenges that come to you as a person of integrity. May you bring great joy to your family and friends. May you contribute to making this world a better and happier place for us all. May the Gods bless you and make your life a blessing to the world. So be it.

“To end our ritual, we give thanks. We thank the Gods for watching over (child) now and in the future. We thank (Parent/s), for their dedication and love, which shines forth with such beauty, and which will keep (child) strong, safe and wise. We thank (child)’s godparents for their commitment in supporting and guiding (child) along their path. We thank those here present, (Parents and Child)’s community, who will always support and cherish them. We give thanks for this day, during which we have done good works.

Now let’s go together from this place in love, and celebrate (Parent/s and Child) on their new path!”