

THE BLESSING OF A HOUSE
Short version – about 7 minutes

Holy water can be sprinkled in each room, and candles or incense lit at certain points. Each room can have a simple blessing as well as the general prayers, if wished.

AT THE FRONT DOOR

Opening the front door, the priest and the occupier(s) say:

**In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit:
Peace be to this house and all who shall live in it.**

IN THE ENTRANCE HALL

Priest Unless the Lord builds the house
ALL those who build it labour in vain.
Priest Unless the Lord keeps the city
ALL it is useless to stay awake and guard it. (Psalm 127)
Priest Loving Father, who sent your own Son to be born of a mortal mother and to live at Nazareth in a human house, so that all families might be made holy in him: Bless this house and all who enter it. May it always be a place of love and of peace. Give to the members of the household your good gifts of health and cheerfulness, of gladness and a contented spirit. May the door stand open to the lost, may the sorrowful find comfort and may the light of faith never be darkened. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
ALL AMEN

IN ONE OF THE DOWNSTAIRS ROOMS

Priest See what a good and joyful thing it is
ALL For everyone to live together in unity. (Psalm 133)
Priest Lord God Almighty, we ask you to bless all the living areas of this house so that those who live together are of one mind and one soul and that being united in true fellowship on earth, they may hereafter be united with all your saints in heaven. Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
ALL AMEN

Priest The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,
ALL You give them their food at the time they need it.
Priest Heavenly Father, you nourish and sustain us all through your creation, and your Son Jesus delighted to share simple food and drink with his friends and to serve others. We ask you to bless all the places where food is prepared and eaten and tasks done for the good of the household. May the work that is done here be holy and full of your real presence, so that those who labour may also be blessed. May meals be shared with generosity, delight and thanksgiving, and in time may those who are fed here with earthly food, come by your grace to share in your heavenly banquet. Through Jesus Christ our Lord,
ALL AMEN

IN ONE OF THE UPSTAIRS ROOMS

Priest Cleanse me with sweet-smelling herbs, and I shall be clean,
ALL Wash me and I shall be whiter than snow. (Psalm 51)
Priest God the Father and Mother of us all, bless all the places in this house where cleaning and washing takes place, so that everyone in this house may be pure and clean both outside and inside. For Jesus Christ's sake,
ALL AMEN

Priest Here it is safe to lie down and take rest
ALL For it is you, Lord, who make me sleep in safety.
Priest O Lord God, who neither slumbers nor sleeps, bless the bedrooms of this house and send your holy angels to guard those who rest within these walls. Protect them from all evil and temptation so that they may watch with Christ and, being refreshed by untroubled sleep, may wake to serve you truly in the work to which you call them. Through Jesus Christ our Lord.
ALL AMEN

OUTSIDE

Priest The earth is satisfied by the fruit of God's work. He makes grass grow for the cattle,
ALL And plants for people to cultivate, bringing food from the earth. (Psalm 104)
Priest Lord of all creation, bless this place that it may be full of life and beauty, which all may enjoy. May those who live here always care for your earth and do all they can to be good stewards of your creation. For Jesus Christ's sake.
ALL AMEN

Priest You search out my path and are acquainted with all my ways.
ALL Your hand shall lead me and your right hand shall hold me fast. (Psalm 139)
Priest May you go out in joy and be led forth in peace. May the Lord preserve your going out and coming in, from this time forwards for ever more.
ALL AMEN

CONCLUDING PRAYERS – in Living Room

Priest Let us pray in the words Jesus himself has taught us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest As we have freely received, so may we freely give love to God and to all his children, in whom we meet Christ himself.
**ALL Most gracious Father, this is our home:
let your peace rest upon it.
Let love abide here,
love for one another, love for humanity,
love for life itself and love for God.
Let us remember that as many hands build a house,
so many hearts make a home. AMEN**

The Priest concludes with a blessing for everyone present.